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## WANDERERS IN POLE POSITION FOR DEBUT SEASON HONOURS

# HISTORY IN THE MAKING!

PHOTOS: KAREN DOUGLAS

# Youth to Power the Wanderers' Future

**In a major move under its youth development program, the NRMA Insurance Western Sydney Wanderers has signed two promising young players to the club for the next two seasons.**

The talented midfielders have been hand-picked by coach Tony Popovic for intensive daily development training with the Wanderers senior squad.

Creative ball player Josh Barresi, 18, has been signed on a senior contract for the remainder of the current competition and the next two Hyundai A-League seasons.

The exciting attacking-midfielder has been at the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) for the past 18 months after a two-year stint with the South Australian Sports Institute. He played his junior football for the Croydon Kings in Adelaide.

Wanderers National Youth League Captain Yianni Perkatis has also committed to the club until the end of the 2014/15 Hyundai A-League season.

Perkatis, who turns 19 on Friday, joined the Wanderers from the AIS and has been training with the senior squad since the pre-season in July. He represented Australia in the Under 17 FIFA World Cup in Mexico in 2011 and played his junior football in Western Sydney, most recently with Blacktown City.

Wanderers coach Tony Popovic said the club would be looking to the future by promoting more youngsters through the club's youth side.

"We have short, medium and long term goals and we will be looking to the future at every opportunity," Popovic said.

"In our first season we hastily put together a youth side but we will take more time in the future to identify and develop young players that fit into the style and culture of the football club that we are creating."

Popovic said Barresi was a talented and versatile young player with good skills.

"He is a big boy but he is still physically developing and he has great technique," Popovic said.

"We look forward to working with him and slowly building him up to the speed of training every day and being a professional."

Barresi said he did not hesitate when he got the phone call from Popovic.

"Ever since day one I have looked at the club and what they have going on and thought 'that is what I want to be a part of'," Barresi said.

Popovic said Perkatis was developing nicely into a competent midfielder and had come a long way since the pre-season.

"Yianni has developed well with us this year and we think there is more to come," Popovic said.

"With all round skills and a good passing range, he is comfortable on the ball and is capable of controlling the midfield."

Perkatis said he was proud to sign for the long term.

"I want to commit to the Wanderers because I have grown up in the Western Sydney community," Perkatis said.

"It is tough but I enjoy coming to training every day and it is good for my development as a young player training with the professionals and learning from the coaching staff."

Executive Chairman Lyall Gorman said now was the time for the club to start looking at the future and the development of young players across the board.

"The starting point for that, in what will over time become a major talent identification and development program, is the introduction of talented youth players into our senior squad," Gorman said.

"This is not only just rewards for the efforts of players like Yianni and Josh but also a very strong message by our club to aspirational young players that there is a strong future for them at the Wanderers."

Josh Baresi struts his stuff at training. Photo: Eric Berry

# Exciting Queensland duo elevated

**Brisbane Roar is delighted to announce the signing of Kwame Yeboah and Ben Litfin to senior NYL contracts for the next two Hyundai A-League seasons.**

**The exciting Queensland-born duo have been stand-out performers in this season's National Youth League campaign.**

**Yeboah, a right-sided attacker, has already made his first team debut – coming on as a 90th minute substitute in the Round 21 win over Wellington Phoenix at Suncorp Stadium.**

**The 19-year-old scored four goals in Brisbane Roar's recently completed National Youth League season.**

**Litfin also scored four goals and made a huge impression in his first season with the Brisbane National Youth League squad.**

**A creative and hard-working midfielder, Litfin promises to be one to watch as he joins the rest of the Hyundai A-League squad on a full time basis next season.**

**Head Coach Mike Mulvey said he was excited at the prospect of helping both players realise their potential.**

**"Kwame is a young boy who is very determined to succeed," Mulvey said.**

**"He is someone who we hold high hopes for in the future, he has speed and good movement in the final third.**

**"Of course, he has a lot of improvement and hard work ahead of him, but he deserves his chance and we are happy to offer him his chance.**

**"Ben is a young player with lots of potential.**

**"He is a midfielder who fits the type of player we are after.**

**"He has the ability to keep the ball, has good vision and is a tireless working in the middle of the park.**

**"For both boys this is a great opportunity and one I am sure they will accept wholeheartedly."**

**The two youngsters join the likes of James Donachie, Matt Acton, Luke Brattan, Corey Brown and Ben Halloran as young Queensland talent who have followed the pathway to the club's Hyundai A-League squad.**

**The group of young players join experienced Queensland products Shane Stefanutto, Jade North and Mitch Nichols to ensure the club maintains a strong local feel to its squad.**

**While the immediate focus for the newly-signed pair will be to put pressure on established first team players for positions in the starting eleven, long term they will no doubt look to emulate the exploits of other young Queensland players who have come through the Brisbane Roar system to earn contracts playing football overseas.**

**Former Brisbane players Tommy Oar, Michael Zullo and Adam Sarota have made strong marks in Holland this season, helping their side FC Untrecht to a current position of sixth in the tough Eredivisie.**

**Former captain Matt McKay continues to be a regular starter for the Socceroos and will this season ply his trade in the ever-improving Chinese Super League with Changchun Yatai.**

**Yeboah and Litfin have replaced Brown and George Lambadaridis who were promoted to senior A-League contracts for next season. The club has one senior NYL contract remaining to fill for the 2013/14 season.**

# GLORY LEGEND WELCOMES YOUNG WA STARS

By Gareth Morgan

**Teenage full-backs Riley Woodcock (17) and Matthew Davies (18) have become the latest additions to the Perth Glory squad as coach Alistair Edwards' youthful overhaul of the club continues.**

In a new club tradition, the Perth-born duo were handed their shirts by Glory legend Scott Miller after putting pen to paper on two-year senior contracts and both were understandably delighted at the prospect of forging professional careers with their hometown club.

"It's great to get a deal," said Woodcock, "especially as I've always been a Glory fan.

"With Alistair coming in, the club's changing, it's a big opportunity for me and I'm loving every minute of it."

"I'm ecstatic," added Davies, who grew up in Mt Lawley.

"It's something I've been working towards for a long time and to finally sign the paper is a good feeling.

"It's great to have the opportunity to work with all these experienced players and me and Riley are trying to learn as much from them as we can and improve as much as we can.

"There's definitely a new direction at the club now, with a fair bit more emphasis on youth."

Miller, meanwhile, has seen the pair rise through the ranks at close-hand and is backing them to make a major impact at senior level.

"Riley comes from the club where I'm coach, Cockburn City," he said, "and I've kept an eye on him as he's gone through the system.

"Matt's a full-back on the other side and both players are technically very gifted and very aggressive.

"A lot of fans will be looking forward to them going forward as well because they've got a bit of razzle-dazzle about them."

And the man who made more than 200 appearances for the club between 1996 and 2006 also believes that the double signing is another indication that Glory are moving in the right direction under their new coaching regime.

"The more youngsters and home grown WA talent we have the better," he said.

"And as long as it's mixed well with some experienced lads, like (Jacob) Burns, (Liam) Miller, (Travis) Dodd and (Michael) Thwaite, the young boys can learn a lot.

"The young lads playing in our state league now know that there are people watching them and that there's an opportunity for them at Glory.

"It looks like there's a confidence and belief around the place now.

"Alistair and Gareth have brought a fresh start and the players have bought into the philosophy of how they want to play and the sky's the limit."

Riley Woodcock and Mathhew Davies are presented their senior shirts as club legend Scott Miller looks on. Photo: Courtesy Perth Glory FC.

Edwards himself was quick to praise the new recruits, confirmed that they could make their Hyundai A-League debuts this season and then went on to provide a further insight into his vision for the club going forward.

"Riley and Matt are fresh faces as far as the senior squad is concerned," he said, "but I've known both boys for the best part of ten years through my local club Cockburn, the AIS and the NTC.

"They are Perth boys, really good kids and now they've got a really good opportunity to progress their careers.

"We are signing players to be part of the squad and depending on how they perform in training, they are up for selection.

"In terms of WA youth, you could probably put together a team of players who are playing elsewhere in the A-League or overseas and that's something that we're trying to address.

"We want to have a really viable pathway for players within the WA system

"We've got a Ferrari in terms of the youth development program in this state, but then they are going inter-state or overseas to progress their professional careers.

"Now we've got another two of the most talented players in this state who have chosen to stay at Perth Glory and continue their football education."

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# Ibini named February NAB Young Footballer of the Year Nominee

**Central Coast Mariners attacker Bernie Ibini has been announced as the fifth nominee for the 2012/13 NAB Young Footballer of the Year Award.**

Ibini was voted as the most outstanding U21 player for the month of February following standout performances in four matches.

Ibini returned to the Mariners following a trial stint in Belgium with Club Brugge in January, and has since produced a number of dazzling displays for his side. Ibini helped the Mariners achieve two wins and a draw from four Hyundai A-League fixtures in February.

The Australian youth international netted a neat double in a 5-0 thumping of Wellington Phoenix at Bluetongue Stadium early in the month, and backed that great performance up with the Mariners' only goal in their 2-1 defeat away to Perth Glory in Hyundai A-League Round 21.

Ibini was also a key figure in the yellow and navy's 6-2 triumph over Melbourne Victory in Gosford on Saturday 23 February – his pace, trickery and notably his selflessness helping craft goals for his teammates on the night.

Bernie Ibini celebrating his nomination with his trademark salute.

Ibini described his pride in joining the four other nominees for the prestigious NAB Young Footballer of the Year prize, an award he was also nominated for last season.

"It's good to be the second player nominated from the Mariners this year, I think it shows how well the coaching staff has done with the young boys," Ibini said.

The attacking ace added that his January trial in Belgium had given him extra belief in his ability.

"The (Mariners) coaching staff have given me a lot of belief to go out and perform," he said. (But) I think going over there (to Belgium) was a great experience for me. For me it was a 10 out of 10 experience and it helped me to come back with a lot more confidence to show what I can do."

Tim Clarke, Head of NAB Enterprise Sponsorship & Events said NAB is delighted to see the NAB Young Footballer of the Year Award continue to unearth future stars of the game.

"We congratulate Bernie on his nomination and look forward to watching his development and growth on the football field in the years to come," said Mr Clarke.

"As a supporter of the NAB Young Footballer of the Year Award, NAB is proud to play an important role in identifying and rewarding tomorrow's stars of football."

"We are also pleased to recognise Bernie's junior club, Westfield Sports High in Fairfield and hope that the equipment pack provided will help the club continue developing the game at a local grassroots level."

The overall winner of the 2013 NAB Young Footballer of the Year Award will receive a $10,000 personal investment portfolio, a NAB Private Client Manager to assist with a range of banking and financial services, and the NAB Young Footballer of the Year Award.

To aid the development of future football stars NAB have generously donated a $3,000 equipment pack that will go to Bernie Ibini's chosen junior football school, Westfield Sports High.

Central Coast Mariners custodian Mathew Ryan won the NAB Young Footballer of the Year Award in 2010/11 and 2011/12. Former Mariner Tomas Rogic, now of Glasgow Celtic FC in Scotland, received an NAB Young Footballer of the Year nomination earlier this campaign*.

# Heskey blow for Jets

**The Newcastle Jets have suffered a massive setback ahead of their A-League clash against Perth with Emile Heskey ruled out through injury.**

Jets coach Gary van Egmond controversially rested Heskey and fellow veteran Michael Bridges from Sunday's match against the Melbourne Victory in the hope of keeping them fresh for the home fixture against the Glory.

It was a decision that has been questioned by the media and fans after the Victory smashed Newcastle 5-0.

To make matters worse, Heskey suffered a corked calf in the 2-1 midweek win over the Phoenix in Wellington and exacerbated the injury during Jets training on Monday.

"Unfortunately, Emile has suffered a fatigue injury and won't be playing in Friday's game," Van Egmond confirmed in a fan forum on the Jets website on Tuesday morning.

"Scans today (Tuesday) will reveal more."

Jets physiotherapist Robert Dingle said the injury was a result of fatigue and travelling and was the exact situation the club was trying to avoid by having to play four games in 14 days.

"Soft tissue injuries, like Emile's strained calf, are a bi-product of fatigue," Dingle said on the Jets website.

"Emile got a cork in his calf in the Wellington game, add to that the travel, which have both contributed to the injury he sustained at a light training session on Monday.

"We obviously made the decision to rest him on the weekend to avoid injury, so it is particularly disappointing to lose Emile now."

# Pain signs first professional deal

**Melbourne Victory is delighted to announce that youngster Connor Pain has signed his first professional contract, keeping him at the club until at least the end of the 2014/15 Hyundai A-League season.**

After a host of impressive performances in the National Youth League (NYL), Pain made his senior debut in Round 19 in the Melbourne Derby and has now formalised his arrangement with the club after initially only signing a NYL contract.

Melbourne Victory Coach Ange Postecoglou said the 19 year-olds good form in the underage competition was impossible to ignore, "Connor's performances in the Youth Team had been consistently good and you have to reward young players when they're performing like that," Postecoglou said.

"He's played five games now and scored an impressive goal against Western Sydney and probably could've had a couple more, so we see him as a player with plenty of upside.

"He's still got a fair bit to learn but he's doing all the right things and he's a player we'll look to really develop over the next couple of seasons," Postecoglou added.

Pain said signing a professional contract was the realisation of a lifelong dream, "This time last year I was preparing for the start of the VPL season and now I'm a professional footballer – it's been a bit of a whirlwind but I'm really excited," he said.

"When I first joined the Youth team I set myself the goal of playing first team football, but I never thought it would happen so quickly.

"Everyone has made me feel really welcome since I've been at the club and I hope I can repay their faith in me," Pain added.

Pain's signing is further evidence of Melbourne Victory's commitment to Australian youth, joining fellow youngsters Andrew Nabbout, Scott Galloway, Nick Ansell, Jesse Makarounas, Jason Geria and Jordan Brown as recent additions to Ange Postecoglou's squad.

# SFC Re-Signs Mcflynn, Triantis And Necevski

**Sydney FC Foundation player Terry McFlynn has signed a one-year contract extension as part of a triple re-signing for the Sky Blues.**

McFlynn will be joined in Sky Blue colours next season by exciting youngster Peter Triantis and goalkeeper Ivan Necevski as Coach Frank Farina looks to build his squad for the 2013/14 season.

The re-signing of McFlynn will see the 31-year-old remain with Sydney FC for a ninth season as he edges towards becoming the first player to play 200 competitive matches for the club.

"I'm excited to be staying at Sydney FC for next season," McFlynn said. "I have always said that I will be at this football club as long as I'm wanted and I'm looking forward to continuing to give everything for Sydney FC.

"Nine years ago Sydney FC gave me a chance in Australia and I love this club. I'm happy my future is settled for next season so I can concentrate on the next four matches as we try to qualify for the finals."

While McFlynn continues Sydney FC's ties to its foundation squad, the elevation of Triantis to the A-League squad is just reward for the 21-year-old, who has played 10 A-League matches after starting the season as a member of the National Youth League squad.

Triantis has signed a two-year contract with Sydney FC through to the end of the 2014/15 season and becomes the 15th player to sign an A-League contract for the Sky Blues from the youth team.

"This is a special day for me and my family," said Triantis, whose older brother Chris was the captain of the inaugural Sydney FC youth team. "I've really enjoyed myself at the club this year and worked hard to get some game time in the A-League after starting the season in the youth team.

"Now I want to make sure I continue to learn and grow as a player and help Sydney FC move back to the top of the A-League."

Goalkeeper Necevski rounds out the triple signing after agreeing to a one year extension to his Sydney FC career. The 33-year-old joined Sydney FC in 2007 and has played 42 A-League games.

"Sydney is my home city and I'm happy to be staying with Sydney FC for another season," Necevski said.

Sydney FC has now signed 16 players for the 2013/14 season, as well as contracted NYL players Daniel Petkovski and Hagi Gligor, as Farina looks to fill up to seven remaining places on the roster.

SFC captain Terry McFlynn signs on for another season

## SHORT PASSES

### BURNS RETURNS FROM BACK INJURY

Perth Glory skipper Jacob Burns has confirmed that he will be available for selection in Friday's crunch clash with Newcastle Jets at Hunter Stadium.

The 34-year-old midfielder has missed the last six games due to a niggling back injury, but he looked to be back to his tenacious best in Tuesday's training session at McGillivray Oval and is desperate to play his part in Glory's late charge for the finals.

### Juventus Soccer School Camps a great success at Club Italia in Sunhsine

Following the success of the Juventus Soccer Camp held in January, this year, Club Italia has decided to hold another two camps, with one beginning on the 2nd April and the other on the 8th April. The camp runs for 5 days.

Parents of players who attended have said that their sons and daughters" thoroughly enjoyed learning the unique training methods used by the professional coaches".

Club Italia once again invites all budding soccer players from all over Melbourne to participate in the camps provided by experienced coaches, direct from the Juventus Academy in Torino.

The cost in $495, and it includes a Juventus Soccer Camp Nike training kit and lunch each day.

An information session will be held at the Club, at 128-152 Furlong Rd, Sunshine on Wednesday 13th April at 7.30 pm.

Further information can be found at www.jssmelbourne.org.au , and at www.facebook.com/JuventusInternationalMelbourne.

**Contact details Rose 0421 740 888 or Margaret 0423 596 518**

### Capital Footbal NPL

**The National Premier Leagues: Capital Football gets underway this weekend with three matches in the competition as six of the competing teams begin their quest for glory. League Champions Belconnen United take on Canberra City at Hawker Football Centre whilst Canberra FC welcomes Tuggeranong United to Deakin Stadium. In the other match in Round 1 Canberra Olympic makes the trip to the Riverside Stadium to play Monaro Panthers. All matches are on Sunday afternoon.**

**Canberra FC v Tuggeranong United (Deakin Stadium, 3pm)**

**Canberra City v Belconnen United (Hawker Football Centre, 3pm)**

**Monaro Panthers v Canberra Olympic (Riverside Stadium, 3pm)**

**Tuesday 2nd April 2013**
**Woden Valley v Cooma Tigers (Hawker Football Centre, 8pm)**

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VICTORIA'S LEADER IN TEAM WEAR

# SCOREBOARD

## TABLE

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | GD | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 West Sydney Wanderers | 23 | 15 | 2 | 6 | 32 | 18 | 14 | 47 |
| 2 Central Coast Mariners | 23 | 13 | 6 | 4 | 43 | 19 | 24 | 45 |
| 3 Melbourne Victory | 23 | 12 | 3 | 8 | 41 | 38 | 3 | 39 |
| 4 Adelaide United | 23 | 11 | 3 | 9 | 34 | 33 | 1 | 36 |
| 5 Newcastle Jets | 24 | 8 | 6 | 10 | 28 | 39 | -11 | 30 |
| 6 Brisbane Roar | 23 | 8 | 4 | 11 | 27 | 26 | 1 | 28 |
| 7 Melbourne Heart | 23 | 8 | 3 | 12 | 29 | 31 | -2 | 27 |
| 8 Sydney FC | 23 | 8 | 3 | 12 | 36 | 46 | -10 | 27 |
| 9 Perth Glory | 23 | 7 | 4 | 12 | 22 | 25 | -3 | 25 |
| 10 Wellington Phoenix | 24 | 6 | 6 | 12 | 26 | 43 | -17 | 24 |

## THIS WEEK

| ROUND 24 | FIXTURE | VENUE | LOCAL | AEDT |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Fri Mar 08 | Newcastle Jets v Perth Glory | Hunter Stadium | 7:30pm | 7:30pm |
| Sat Mar 09 | Sydney FC v Central Coast Mariners | Allianz Stadium | 5:30pm | 5:30pm |
| Sat Mar 09 | Brisbane Roar v Melbourne Victory | Suncorp Stadium | 6:45pm | 7:45pm |
| Sun Mar 10 | West Sydney Wanderers v Wellington Phoenix | Parramatta Stadium | 5:00pm | 5:00pm |
| Mon Mar 11 | Melbourne Heart v Adelaide United | AAMI Park | 7:30pm | 7:30pm |

## NEXT WEEK

| ROUND 25 | FIXTURE | VENUE | LOCAL | AEDT |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Fri Mar 15 | Adelaide United v Newcastle Jets | Hindmarsh Stadium | 7:00pm | 7:30pm |
| Sat Mar 16 | Melbourne Heart v West Sydney Wanderers | AAMI Park | 5:30pm | 5:30pm |
| Sat Mar 16 | Sydney FC v Melbourne Victory | Allianz Stadium | 7:45pm | 7:45pm |
| Sun Mar 17 | Central Coast Mariners v Brisbane Roar | Bluetongue Stadium | 5:00pm | 5:00pm |
| Sun Mar 17 | Perth Glory v Wellington Phoenix | nib Stadium | 4:00pm | 7:00pm |

## ROUND 23 RESULTS

**Adelaide United 0**
**Brisbane Roar 1** *(Halloran 81)*
*@ Hindmarsh Stadium, Crowd: 6878*

**Wellington 1** *(Brockie 19)*
**Melbourne Heart 0**
*Crowd: 3000*

**Perth Glory 2** *(Harold 19, Smeltz 34)*
**Sydney FC 1** *(Del Piero 28)*
*Crowd: 5000 @ nib Stadium*

**Melbourne Victory 5** *(Rojas 8, 65, Leijer 15, Milligan 30, 57)*
**Newcastle Jets 0**
*Crowd: 17,778 @ AAMI Park*

**Western Sydney Wanderers 1** *(Haliti 81)*
**Central Coast Mariners 0**
*Crowd: 18,721 @ Bluetongue Stadium*

## TOP GOAL SCORERS

15 - Daniel McBREEN (Mariners)
14 - Jeremy BROCKIE (Phoenix)
Marco ROJAS (Victory)
12 - Besart BERISHA (Roar)
Alessandro DEL PIERO (SFC)
9 - Emile HESKEY (Jets)
Ryan GRIFFITHS (Jets)
8 - Mark BRIDGE (Wanderers)
Dario VIDOSIC (Adelaide)
7 - Mark MILLIGAN (Victory)

Sydney FC's Alessandro Del Piero continues to find the target and scored another wonderful goal to excite fans across the country. However, his effort wasn't enough as the Glory won 2-1.

## A-LEAGUE TEAM OF THE WEEK Round 23

Compiled by Steven Talevski

**GK: Ante Covic –** A decisive penalty save in wet and windy conditions at Bluetongue Stadium allowed his side to keep on par with the Mariners before they went on and took the three points.

**RB: Ivan Franjic –** The defender was back to his best in a fine performance at Hindmarsh Stadium as his side took home an impressive one nil victory. Franjic was also unlucky to get onto the score sheet thanks to the woodwork.

**CB: Nikolai Topor-Stanley –** One again I find myself adding Nikolai Topor-Stanley into Goal! Weekly's team of the week after a fantastic defensive performance in tough conditions against the Mariners.

**CB: Michael Beauchamp –** The Wanderers captain helped his side to a clean sheet as Western Sydney picked up the three points and moved to the top of the A-League table.

**LB: Adama Traore –** The left back had another typical performance for the Victory as they went on to smash the Jets five nil. A Socceroos appearance may be coming his way sooner rather than later if he keeps up his form.

**RM: Marco Rojas –** After a couple of difficult weeks, Rojas found himself at the end and start of a number of Victory attacks which lead to him scoring a double and assisting in one as well.

**CM: Leigh Broxham –** One of four Melbourne Victory players in this week's team, the rejuvenated Broxham had a terrific game in midfield, supporting both attack and defence.

**CM: Liam Miller –** The central midfielder played a major role in both Chris Harold's goal and the Glory's victory as they continue their late charge for a spot in the finals.

**RM: Paul Ifill –** Back to his best, Ifill played a superb ball to Jeremy Brockie for the game's only goal as the Phoenix ended a tough week with dinting the Hearts final's chances.

**ST: Jeremy Brockie –** Brockie continued his terrific form with once again being the major attacking force for the Phoenix as they picked up a one nil victory courtesy of another goal from the number 11.

**ST: Archie Thompson –** Returning from injury, Thompson was the missing spark the Victory did not have in the last couple of weeks as he played in the false nine role in their dominating five nil victory.

**Coach: Alistair Edwards –** Finals seemed a place to far to be reached, but after a string of terrific results under new coach Alistair Edwards, the Glory are now only three points outside the top six. Edward's passion to promote youth has worked so far in Perth and was best seen this week as he gave 15 year old Danny De Silva his professional debut as the Glory defeated the inform Sydney.

## Star Man

**Marcos Rojas**
Melbourne Victory

**Once again this season Marco Rojas finds himself being the star man of the round after an impressive performance in attack. Rojas' double this week included him rounding Mark Birighitti in goals for Victory's fifth. Rojas also supplied Captain Adrian Leijer with a superb cross as the Victory picked up a five nil smashing.**

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# Roar Upstage Reds to take Maximum Points in SA

**Adelaide United**

**0**

**Brisbane Roar**

**1**

## Match Details

**Adelaide United FC 0**
**Brisbane Roar 1** (Halloran 83')
Referee: Shaun Evans
Crowd: 6,878 @ Hindmarsh Stadium

**Adelaide United:** 1.Eugene Galekovic (gk) (c), 2.Osama Malik, 3.Nigel Boogaard, 6.Cassio, 8.Marcelo Carrusca, 10.Dario Vidosic, 12.Antony Golec, 14.Cameron Watson (16. Daniel Bowles 59'), 21.Jeronimo Neumann (17.Iain Ramsay 46'), 24.Awer Mabil (23.Evan Kostopoulos 75'), 25.Tomi Juric
Substitutes not used: 20.Paul Izzo (gk)

Yellow Cards: Malik 51'
Red Cards: Malik 90+3'

**Brisbane Roar :** 1.Michael Theo (gk), 3.Shane Stefanutto, 5.Ivan Franjic, 7.Besart Berisha, 9.Stef Nijland (10.Henrique 77'), 13.Jade North, 14.Steven Lustica (17.Mitch Nichols 77'), 15.James Donachie, 18.Luke Brattan, 19.Jack Hingert (11.Ben Halloran 70'), 22.Thomas Broich (c)
Substitutes not used: 20.Matt Acton (gk)

Yellow Cards: Hingert 21', Brattan 43', Franjic 49'
Red Cards: Nil

By Matt Mays

**Adelaide missed out on the opportunity to gain on those above them as Mariners and Western Sydney locked horns in Gosford on Saturday; instead they went down to Brisbane 1-0 at Hindmarsh.**

The home side produced one of their worst performances of the whole season as the team looked shot, lethargic and lazy.

Brisbane on the other hand had little worries, albeit their conversion rate was poor. It could and should have been a cricket score if Brisbane had have taken their chances.

The game started in comedic fashion, and felt like a pre season game more than anything. An extremely low attendance didn't help the atmosphere but it was great to see the committed at Hindmarsh rather than Fringe Festival, Clipsal or Soundwave festival just down the road.

Dario Vidosic acted Adelaide ball boy early on after a couple of incidences with flat balls.

The comedy continued throughout the game. There were glaring misses from both sides. The first came on ten minutes. After Jeromino needlessly brought down Broich just outside the Adelaide box, Franjic headed down the resulting free kick from 5 metres, only to see his effort bounce of the near post, float agonisingly over Galekovic onto the other post and away to safety.

Adelaide was finding it hard to find their feet, whilst Franjic was the brightest on the pitch; Galekovic producing another fine save and pushed away a low shot just inside the half hour mark.

Brisbane was looking for Dutch newcomer Stefan Nijland to make an impact after a slow start to his A-League career, and he almost produced.

The Dutchman curled in a wonderful free kick which went agonisingly close, then shot just over minutes later.

Ben O'Halloran lives up to a super-sub tag, scoring the winner shorlty after coming on the pitch. The home crowd is far from amused. Photo: ADAM BUTLER

**Match Stats**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 6 | Saves | 5 |
| 5 | Attempts on target | 7 |
| 7 | Attempts off target | 15 |
| 49% | Possession | 51% |
| 7 | Corners | 4 |
| 2 | Offsides | 2 |
| 11 | Fouls committed | 12 |

It was all Brisbane from then until the end of the half. Franjic was involved again on 37 minutes, powering down the right hand side, beating Cassio for pace before cutting it inside from the bye line neatly for Broich only to see his shot drag just past the post.

Berisha should have broken the deadlock just after, but his powerful header from 3 metres crashed wide. The fans didn't let him forget it either.

Adelaide caretaker boss Valkanis saw things needed to be changed and replaced the surprisingly quiet Jeromino for Ramsey at half time. The Reds started to second period with a bit more intensity, but it was almost a lost cause just 3 minutes after the restart.

Berisha charged into the Adelaide box, twisted, turned and fell somewhat dramatically to a Malik challenge. He knew what he was doing and his celebration towards the Red Army behind the goal proved his quest.

Karma plays a sweet hand in football sometimes, and it struck again as Berisha's penalty pinged off the post and away to safety.

The penalty miss should have revitalised Adelaide, but it had the adverse affect. The teal looked shot of confidence and on a number of occasions played the ball backwards when they had the chance to break.

Adelaide's fate was eventually decided 10 minutes from time. Ramsey and Currusca inexplicably mix up over the ball and it broke to Berisha who feeds it to Halloran who tucks it away nicely into the bottom corner.

It's no more than Brisbane deserved on the day. Brisbane could have been out of sight by half time but boss Mulvey was pleased to get keep his 100% Hindmarsh record intact.

"The way we played today was the best 90 minutes since I have joined the club. We had to patient, and we said at half time if we had to wait till the 95th minute to score then we would wait."

"We got our just rewards today, The real question is, can we go and do that again next week?"

A very croaky Valkanis was furious with his players, and had just come from giving his players a hammering in the dressing room.

"There were too many mistakes in this game, too many turnovers, too many silly mistakes. It's as if we were waiting for them to score."

"It seems to be a mental problem, and it's something we will have to work on."

**Man of the Match**
**Ivan Franjic**
**(Brisbane Roar)**
**Was consistent throughout and was unlucky not to get on the scoresheet.**

Besart Berisha sends Eugene Galekovic the wrong way but his penalty kick rebounds off the post and back into play. Photo: ADAM BUTLER

Brisbane Roar Thomas Broich lets out a yelp as his feet are taken out from under him. Photo: ADAM BUTLER

# One Hit Wanderers Steal Mariners' Thunder

**CC Mariners 0**

**West Sydney 1**

## Match Details

**Central Coast Mariners 0**
**Western Sydney Wanderers 1**
(Haliti 81')
Bluetongue Stadium, Gosford
Referee: Alan Milliner
Attendance: 18,721

**Central Coast Mariners:** 1. Mathew Ryan (Gk), 2. Daniel Mcbreen, 3. Joshua Rose, 4. Pedj Bojic, 6. Patrick Zwaanswijk, 7. John Hutchinson (C), 9. Bernie Ibini, 14. Michael Mcglinchey, 16. Trent Sainsbury, 18. Nick Montgomery (5. Zachary Anderson 85'), 19. Mitchell Duke (29. Nick Fitzgerald 67')
Substitutes Not Used: 20. Justin Pasfield (Gk), 11. Oliver Bozanic

Yellow Cards: Fitzgerald, Duke, Hutchinson, Rose
Red Cards: Nil

**Western Sydney Wanderers:** 1. Ante Covic (Gk), 3. Adam D'apuzzo, 4. Nikolai Topor-Stanleym 5. Michael Beauchamp (C), 6. Jerome Polenz, 8. Mateo Poljak, 9. Dino Kresinger (7. Labinot Haliti 72'), 17. Youssouf Hersi, 18. Iacopo La Rocca (11. Tarek Elrich 89'), 19. Mark Bridge, 21. Shinji Ono (10. Aaron Mooy 60')
Substitutes Not Used: 20. Jerrad Tyson (Gk)

Yellow Cards: Haliti, Polenz, Topor-Stanley
Red Cards: Nil

By Adrian Deans

**In my preview to this game, I suggested that it was going to come down to a battle between the 12th men – the crowds.**

I got that right. The Wanderers fans thrashed the locals off the park – big, brash, noisy, spectacular. Did it have an impact on the park? Ask Mat Ryan. In monsoonal conditions the Mariners completely dominated proceedings but could not turn their dominance into goals. A missed penalty (again), the underside of the crossbar, chance after chance in the second half - the Wanderers had just the one clear cut chance and buried it. The crowd has to take some of the credit.

It was a fabulous occasion. First versus second and the RBB's first visit to Bluetongue – a trip I reckon they will come to adore. It's only 70 ks from Parramatta – far closer than many ancient rivalries in the EPL.

I was walking the streets of Gosford two hours before the game and you could have been excused for thinking the home team wore red and black. These are really passionate fans and you have to wonder where Sydney FC went wrong in attracting them. Could it be as simple as the distance to Allianz Stadium for people living in the west? That makes sense – until you witness the incredible sight – the sheer numbers of the travelling support. In unison they are riveting. I sat next to an English TV producer in the stand and he was blown away by the theatre of Bluetongue with the Man in Black (and red) stealing the show.

As for the game, I got that right as well (except for the result and the score). I predicted the Mariners would be the better side and they were. They clearly dominated territory and chances, but didn't turn the chances into three points.

The key to the Wanderers win was their centre backs. Beauchamp and Topor-Stanley were superb – closing down and getting in the way of countless Mariners chances. Any other centre back pairing, on that night, would have crumbled. Topor-Stanley running down Mitch Duke in the last minute of the first half was telling.

Meanwhile, the Mariners kept hammering away. Good chances fell to Ibini and McBreen in the first half, then in the 51st minute they had the best opportunity of the match when Kresinger dragged down Zwaanswijk in the box. Unfortunately, for the Mariners, penalties don't seem to offer any sort of advantage these days. Goalkeeper Mat Ryan was the fourth in a row to miss from the spot and three of those four have been extremely costly.

Yet another excellent chance fell to McBreen when he hammered McGlinchey's cross against the underside of the bar, but that was the end of the section. The Wanderer's only chance of the second half was brilliantly crafted by a three man interchange between La Rocca, Bridge and Labinot Haliti which disrupted the usually rock-solid structure of the Mariner's defence. I was amused by the fact that so many of the Poznan-dancing RBB missed Haliti's goal – but no cheap shots. They're great fans and they got to celebrate a historic night that had seismic consequences for the future of the A-League.

In those conditions it was a quality match, if dominated by the defence. I've been calling all season for Sainsbury to be picked in the Socceroos, but what about him and Topor-Stanley being picked together? They're both fast, win everything in the air, brilliant tacklers and read the game like veterans. And they're young. Pick them now Holger and let them grow together over ten years like Neill and Moore – or Adams and Bould.

In the end, what this game was all about was the success of the league. Football is the game of the C21 and the A-League is showing definite signs of taking its rightful place in Australian sport. While they couldn't have done it without a successful league already in place, the Wanderers and their fans are now a huge part of that success.

*Adrian Deans is the author of Mr Cleansheets – published by Vulgar Press, distributed by Dennis Jones and Associates and available in all good book stores. Ebook also available. www.mr-cleansheets.com*

**Man of the Match**
**Nikolai Topor-Stanley (Wanderers)**

Bluetongue Stadium erupts into a sea of black and red as the final whistle blows, and the Wanderers pinch top spot in the Mariner's own back-yard. Photo: KAREN DOUGLAS

**Match Stats**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 2 | Saves | 3 |
| 8 | Attempts on target | 23 |
| 8 | Attempts off target | 5 |
| 52% | Possession | 48% |
| 7 | Corners | 2 |
| 0 | Offsides | 7 |
| 13 | Fouls committed | 16 |

Daniel McBreen's sliding effort hits the underside of the crossbar and the Wanderers survive another close call. Photo: KAREN DOUGLAS

Matthew Ryan's penalty can't escape the legs of his opposite number, Ante Covic. Photo: KAREN DOUGLAS

# Resurgent Glory Keeps Finals Aspirations Alive

**Perth Glory 2**

**Sydney FC 1**

## Match Details

**Perth Glory 2**
(Harold 19, Smeltz 34)
**Sydney FC 1** (Del Piero 28)
Venue: nib Stadium
Crowd 5000

**Perth Glory**: 1.Danny Vukovic, 5.Steve Pantelidis (2.Jack Clisby 39'), 9.SHane Smeltz, 10.Liam Miller, 12.Ryo Nagai, Steven McGarry, 17.Chris Harold, 18.Matias Jesus Cordoba (Daniel De Silva 62'), 19.Joshua Risdon, 21.Scott Jamieson, 23.Michael Thwaite.

Yellow Cards: Miller, Harold.
Red Cards: None

**Sydney FC:** 20.Vedran Janjetovic, 3.Fabio Alves, 7.Brett Emerton, Adam Griffiths, 10.Alessandro Del Piero, 15.Terry McFlynn, 22.Ali Abbas (16.Joel Chianese 71'), 23.Rhyan Grant, 26.Peter Trianthis (17.Terry Antonis 68'), 29.Joel Griffiths, Lucas Neill.

Yellow Cards: Emerton, McFlynn
Red cards: ALves

By Gareth Morgan

**First-half goals from Chris Harold and Shane Smeltz powered Perth Glory to an impressive and thoroughly-deserved 2-1 victory over Sydney FC on Saturday night, a result that keeps the hosts' finals hopes very much alive.**

And the feelgood factor around nib Stadium was further reinforced by the sight of 15-year-old Daniel De Silva becoming the youngest player ever to represent the West Australian club when he was introduced as a substitute shortly after the hour-mark.

On a thrilling night in the west, a vocal crowd also witnessed a stunning equaliser for the visitors from Alessandro Del Piero, the second-half dismissal of left-back, Fabio and arguably Glory's best attacking performance of the season.

The hosts were especially impressive in midfield where Matias Cordoba, Miller, Harold and Nagai all caught the eye with their energy and mobility and regularly rotated their positions to keep the Sky Blues' defence guessing.

But Sydney also more than played their part in a compelling contest and the hosts were grateful to several stunning saves from Danny Vukovic and a standout display from centre-back Michael Thwaite as they battled to keep their season alive.

Both sides had gone close in the early exchanges, Danny Vukovic getting down low to his left to keep out a header from Lucas Neill and his opposite number, Vedran Janjetovic blocking a well-struck effort from Harold who had left Adam Griffiths for dead as he cut in from the left flank.

But the Sky Blues failed to heed that warning from the former Gold Coast man and on 19 minutes, they paid the penalty.

Liam Miller was the architect of the goal, drawing several Sydney defenders with a slaloming run to the edge of the box and then laying the ball off to Harold who thumped an angled drive in at the near post to claim his second goal in Glory colours.

Having recorded just two wins on the road all season, the visitors desperately needed to conjure a swift response to that early set-back and their marquee man duly supplied it.

Picking up the ball just inside the Glory half, Del Piero made his way to within 30 metres of Vukovic's goal and then unleashed a swerving, dipping left-foot drive that the home 'keeper was helpless to prevent arrowing its way into the top corner of his net.

Even the home fans were forced to acknowledge the quality of the former Juventus man's strike, but six minutes later they had some more Glory magic to savour.

This time the goal came from the left flank, Scott Jamieson bending a teasing cross into the box where Smeltz somehow found room between a cluster of Sydney defenders and side-footed past Janjetovic from close range to restore his side's advantage.

And there was still time left in a breathless first-half for Nagai to try his luck on several occasions from long range, while at the other end, Del Piero and Ali Abbas were narrowly off target for the visitors.

Clear-cut chances became a little thinner on the ground as the second-half progressed, but both sides continued to throw men forward and there was certainly no lack of drama to keep the crowd enthralled.

Nagai and Del Piero continued their long-range shooting duel without unduly troubling either goalkeeper before the game took another dramatic twist just short of the hour mark.

Fabio tangled with Smeltz as the Kiwi striker tried to latch onto a lofted through ball and referee Strebre Delovski opted to bring the Brazilian defender's night to an early end by showing him his second yellow card.

Sydney's protests at the decision were long and loud, but they were swiftly drowned out as the home fans stood as one to roar their approval of De Silva's history-making moment.

And the youngster's every touch was then cheered as he belied his tender years to make a seamless transition into senior football.

Forced to chase the game with a man down, Frank Farina's side inevitably left gaps at the back and Nagai, Jamieson and Smeltz all went close to making the game safe for Glory as full-time approached.

Their failure to secure that cushion led to some anxious late moments, notably when Vukovic was forced into a stunning save to keep out a thumping drive from substitute Terry Antonis before referee Delovski brought the curtain down on a thrilling contest and left Glory celebrating a win that moves them to within three points of the top six.

Chris Harold draws first blood for Perth Glory. Photo: CRAIG ECCLES

### Match Stats

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 3 | Saves | 6 |
| 8 | Attempts on target | 4 |
| 9 | Attempts off target | 9 |
| 49% | Possession | 51% |
| 3 | Corners | 11 |
| 3 | Offsides | 2 |
| 14 | Fouls committed | 13 |

**Man of the Match**
Danny Vukovic
(Perth Glory)

Alessandro Del Piero hits the top corner with super left foot effort to bring the Sky Blues back on level terms.. Photo: CRAIG ECCLES

Shane Smeltz manages to navigate his strike through a crowded penalty area to put the Glory back in front. Photo: CRAIG ECCLES

# Brockie Strike Seals Much Needed Phoenix Win

**Wellington Phoenix** 1

**Melbourne Heart** 0

## Match Details

**Wellington 1 (Brockie 19)**
**Melbourne Heart 0**
Crowd: 3000

**Wellington Phoenix**: 20.Glenn Moss, 2.Manny Muscat, 3.Tony Lochhead, 7.Leo Burtos, 8.Paul Ifill ( 16.Louis Fenton 81'), 10.Stein Huysegems, 11.Jeremy Brockie, 17.Vince Lia, 18.Ben Sigmund, 22.Andrew Durante, 23.Corey Gameiro, 21.Dani Sanchez 64'.

Yellow Cards: Sanchez 64', Gameiro 64'.
Red Cards: None

**Melbourne Heart**: 20.Andrew Redmayne, 4.Simon Colosimo, 6.Paul Gerhart, 8.Matt Thompson, 11.Richard Garcia (14.Golgol Mebrahtu 57'), 13.Jonatan Germano, 15.David Williams, 21.Jamie Coyne (16. Marcel Meeuwis 81'), 22.Nick Kalmar (5.Fred 62'), 25.Jeremy Walker, 36.Eli Babalj.

Yellow Cards: Kalmar 62'.
Red cards: None

By Joe Gallagher

**Wellington Phoenix organisers will leave Dunedin this season with a bittersweet taste in their mouths.**

While only 3000 fans turned out to the Phoenix's venture south this year, the Phoenix's season had some much needed life breathed into it with a 1-0 win over Melbourne Heart.

The result was not unexpected given that the Heart have the league's worst away record, but if John Aloisi's side were to have any chance of breaking their hoodoo outside Victoria it would have been against the bottom-placed, and seriously struggling, Wellington Phoenix.

But interim coach Chris Greenacre's first win in charge will be one to savour, with the Phoenix turning out one of their few impressive performances this season.

The scoreline could have been much worse for the Heart, who were saved by the woodwork three times in the first half alone.

First it was Jeremy Brockie, who met a long corner with his chest before a right-foot volley struck the crossbar in just the third minute.

Brockie was at the heart of everything good for the home side, delivering a magnificent cross for Belgian striker Stein Huysegems after quarter of an hour. Huysegems, who had been gifted a rare start by Greenacre, headed the ball again onto the crossbar, and was a matter of centimetres from breaking his goalscoring drought which now extends back to round four.

But a rejuvenated Paul Ifill created the opening goal for Brockie just five minutes later. Ifill strolled down the left hand edge of the penalty area before picking out the Phoenix's leading scorer, who obliged with his 14th goal of the season.

Astonishingly, given Wellington's struggles this season, Brockie is just one goal behind Daniel McBreen in the race for the league's golden boot.

Huysegems ought to have doubled the lead shortly after, capitalising on a mistake at the back minutes later and crashing a left footed finish against the upright after being put through by a long ball from Vince Lia. His finish was one of a striker out of form, given that Andrew Redmayne's questionably positioning had left much of the goal at Huysgems' mercy.

But the Phoenix took an unfamiliar lead into the break, and Greenacre would have no doubt dared them to produce more of the same.

After an hour, Ifill nearly scored one of his most memorable goals as he danced his way through three would-be tacklers before firing his shot high and wide.

The Heart's most positive moment came as David Williams' mistimed volleyed cross nearly snuck its way towards Glen Moss' unprotected far corner.

Melbourne's bid for a rare away win was given a boost with just ten minutes to play as Huysegems was dismissed for a second yellow card.

The foul itself seemed innocuous enough, but the referee adjudged the Belgian to have raised his studs in a challenge against Simon Colosimo. Perhaps the Australian milked the challenge somewhat, but the dismissal opened the door for the visitors in the final few moments.

But they could not find an equaliser and slump to a loss which sees them lose touch slightly with the leading pack in their bid for a second successive playoffs appearance.

Phoenix's win was welcome relief after a turbulent week which has seen their coach Ricki Herbert resign and their slim chances of qualifying for the finals for a fourth time in a row effectively ended with a midweek loss at the hands of Newcastle Jets.

Their attention will now turn to avoiding the dreaded wooden spoon, but the task is not an easy one, with a visit to league-leading Western Sydney to come.

The Heart, now one point outside the six, take a welcome return to AAMI Park next weekend to host Adelaide United in a match that could define their ambitions for this season.

Should they fail to qualify for the post-season, it is matches like this in Otago over which Aloisi and his side will be kicking them come the end of the campaign.

Jeremy Brockie celebrates netting the winner with Paul Ifill. Photo: PETER McDONALD

**Match Stats**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 0 | Saves | 4 |
| 8 | Attempts on target | 0 |
| 13 | Attempts off target | 10 |
| 52% | Possession | 48% |
| 10 | Corners | 3 |
| 4 | Offsides | 6 |
| 16 | Fouls committed | 9 |

**Man of the Match**
**Paul Ifill**
**(Wellington Phoenix)**

Fred (Heart) and Andrew Durante (Phoenix) go toe-to-toe.
Photo: PETER McDONALD

Gogl Mahbrahtu turn on the turbo as Tony Lochhead gives chase.
Photo: PETER McDONALD

# High Fives For Victory As Jets Grounded

**Melbourne Victory 5**

**Newcastle Jets 0**

## Match Details

**Melbourne Victory 5** (Marco Rojas 8', 66', Mark Milligan 30', 57', Adrian Leijer 15')
**Newcastle Jets 0**
Venue: AAMI Park, Melbourne
Referee: Jarred Gillett
Attendance: 17,778

**Melbourne Victory:** 39. Nathan Coe, 3. Adama Traore, 5. Mark Milligan, 6. Leigh Broxham, 10. Archie Thompson (18. Francisco Stella 58'), 11. Marco Rojas, 14. Billy Celeski (21. Spase Dilevski 58'), 23. Adrian Leijer, 31. Scott Galloway, 32. Connor Pain (26. Andrew Nabbout 78'), 33. Daniel Mullen.

Unused substitutes: 1. Tando Velaphi.
Yellow cards: Nil
Red cards: Nil

**Newcastle Jets:** 20.Mark Birighitti, 2.Scott Neville, 5.Dominik Ritter, 8.Ruben Zadkovich, 12.Josh Brillante (11.Connor Chapman 76'), 14. Taylor Regan, 15.Craig Goodwin (10. Bernardo Ribeiro 85'), 21. Marco Jesic, 22.Adam Taggart, 25. Mitch Cooper (18.Jacob Pepper 69'), 26. Andrew Hoole.

Unused substitutes: 1.Ben Kennedy,
Yellow cards: Taylor Regan 30', 56',
Andrew Hoole 55'
Red cards: Taylor Regan 56'

By Daniel Quinn

**The Melbourne Victory have jumped back into the top three after thrashing the Newcastle Jets 5-0 at AAMI Park, which included doubles from Marco Rojas and Mark Milligan.**

The Victory eased through the contest and lead 3-0 at half-time thanks to Rojas' first strike, Leijer's header and a Milligan penalty.

The Jets had to play the majority of the second-half with ten after Taylor Regan's send off on 56 minutes. Regan's red card gave Milligan the opportunity to dispatch his second penalty which he made not mistake with, before Rojas capped off the win in style.

The win for Blue and White jumps the Victory into third over Adelaide United who lost to Brisbane Roar earlier in the round, but the Victory are still six points behind the Mariners in second.

The Victory were all over the Jets in the first-half and raced to a three-goal lead, which the Melburnians held into the break, partly thanks to the returning Archie Thompson who was brilliant in the hole just behind the wide forwards of Rojas and Connor Pain.

Thompson and Rojas combined sensationally in just the eighth minute as Thompson's inch-perfect through ball sent Rojas on his way. The New Zealander then made no mistake tucking his strike underneath the charging Mark Birighitti.

Leigh Broxham could have joined the scoresheet for just the second time in his A-League career with a well-directed header, but Birighitti was at his best turning the ball around for a corner.

Birighitti however couldn't deny the Victory from the resulting corner as Leijer ran onto the end of Rojas' corner and found the back of the net with a cushioned header.

On 17 minutes, just two minutes after Leijer doubled the lead, Victory's other centre back Daniel Mullen thought he completed a fairytale for the Blue and White after powerfully heading into the bottom corner from another Rojas corner.

But with most of the Victory players back in position for the restart, the referee Jarred Gillett disallowed the goal because Milligan seemed to have made contact with Ruben Zadkovich's face while the cross came in.

The Victory were clearly not happy with Gillett's decision, however, Ange Postecoglou's side didn't have to wait long for the sought after third they thought they should have already had.

Thompson was the architect once again on 29 minutes and the Socceroo was brought down in the box by Regan, who was consequently given his first booking. Milligan stepped up and coolly slotted straight down the middle.

Credit to the Victory who pushed from the start of the second-half and were unfortunate not to add a fourth as Connor Pain struck the foot of the post.

But shortly after being denied by the woodwork, the Jets lost a man as Regan was sent off after receiving his second bookable offence for dragging down Mullen inside the box. Once again Milligan stepped up and dispatched his spot-kick into the bottom corner with Birighitti grounded.

Rojas then added his fourteenth goal of the season in spectacular fashion. The former Phoenix winger was picked out in the box, beat a defender, danced around Birighitti and slotted into the open net.

**Man of the Match**
**Marcos Rojas**
**(Melbourne Victory)**

Marco Rojas returned to the scorers list with a brace. Photo: ANITA MILAS

**Match Stats**

| Victory | | Jets |
|---|---|---|
| 3 | Saves | 5 |
| 14 | Attempts on target | 4 |
| 6 | Attempts off target | 10 |
| 51% | Possession | 47% |
| 9 | Corners | 9 |
| 3 | Offsides | 2 |
| 9 | Fouls committed | 12 |

In a weekend of missed penalties, Mark Milligan made no mistake from the spot on two occasions. Photo: ANITA MILAS

Ruden Zadkovich (Jets) and Archie Thompson (Victory) hit the deck in a tangle. Photo: ANITA MILAS

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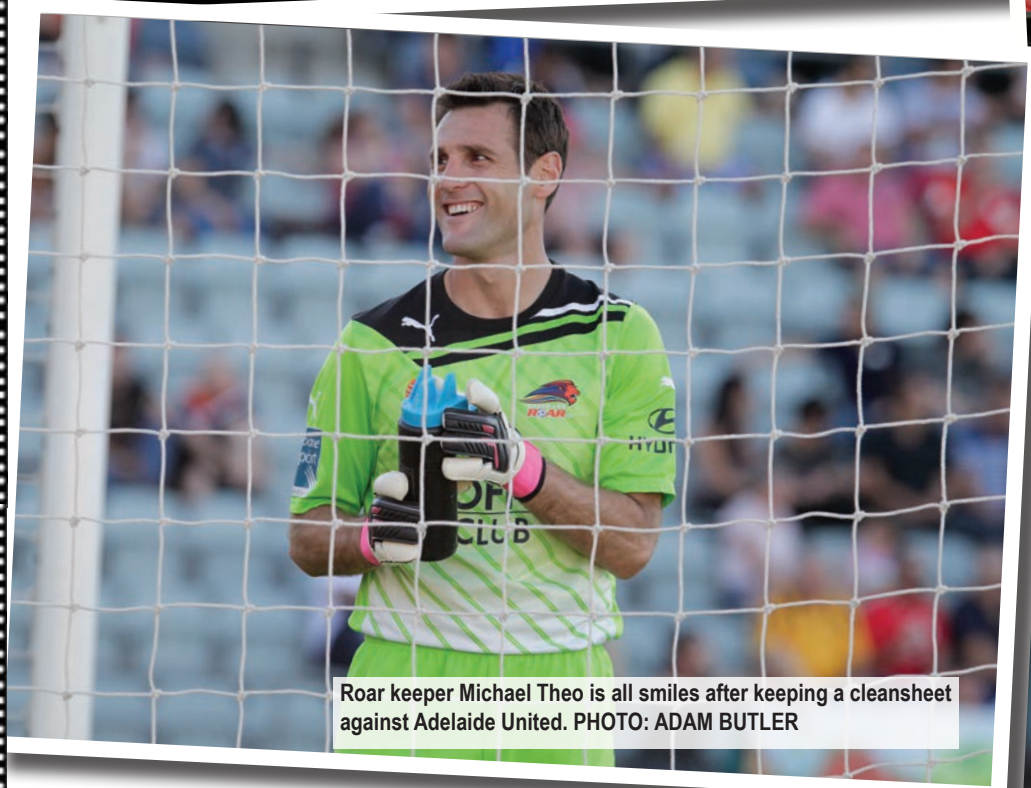
# PICS OF ROUND 23

Les Shorrock's Action Packed Picture Page

The view from the AAMI Park terraces as Victory dismantled the Jets. Photo: ANITA MILAS

Western Sydney Wanderers are singing in the rain after playing themselves into pole position for the Premiers Plate.. Photo: KAREN DOUGLAS


Roar keeper Michael Theo is all smiles after keeping a cleansheet against Adelaide United. PHOTO: ADAM BUTLER

Victory captain Adrian Leijer leads out his troops against the Jets. Photo: ANITA MILAS

Roar's Besart Berisha holds his head after missing his spot-kick. Photo: ADAM BUTLER

Adelaide United fans give the thumbs up at Hindmarsh. PHOTO: ADAM BUTLER

It's boots n' all for Peter Triantis (SFC) and Steven McGarry (Glory). Photo: CRAIG ECCLES

The Victory boys huddle prior to the Jets clash. Photo: ANITA MILAS

# Newcastle Jets v Perth Glory

## Fri Mar 08 Hunter Stadium 7:30pm

### Jets Line Up

1. Ben Kennedy (gk)
2. Scott Neville
5. Dominik Ritter
7. James Brown
8. Ruben Zadkovich
10. Bernardo Ribeiro
11. Connor Chapman
12. Josh Brillante
15. Craig Goodwin
17. James Virgili
18. Jacob Pepper
19. Michael Bridges
20. Mark Birighitti (gk)
21. Marko Jesic
22. Adam Taggart
25. Mitch Cooper
26. Andrew Hoole
(Four to be omitted)

Ins: James Brown and James Virgili (returning from illness), Michael Bridges (returning from being rested)

Outs: Zenon Caravella (hamstring), Emile Heskey (calf), Sam Gallaway (knee), Taylor Regan (suspended)

Unavailable: Ben Kantarovski (knee)

By Shaun Dyas

**The Newcastle Jets face Perth Glory at Hunter Stadium on Friday night in another crucial clash in the make-up of the top six positions on the A-League ladder.**

Newcastle head into the match coming off their most disappointing loss of the season as they were out-enthused and outgunned by a vastly more experienced Melbourne Victory side 5-0 at AAMI Park.

The tactics of their manager Gary Van Egmond were rightly questioned after the debacle and Chief executive Robbie Middleby took the extraordinary step of penning a letter to sponsors and members after the defeat.

After resting his star strikers Emile Heskey and Michael Bridges from the rout citing fatigue, most fans would have expected the pair to line up against the Glory.

This is now not going to happen as Heskey injured his hamstring at training during the week making the decision to rest him from the game even more baffling.

If Heskey was so fatigued, then why was he forced to train on Monday with the rest of the squad that did not feature in the Victory game?

It seems you would allow him also to miss the training session in an effort to relax and give his ageing body time to recover.

Newcastle has all these issues surrounding their men and now is not the time in the season for chances to be taken with your marquee striker.

The Glory will be looking to take advantage of the fact that Newcastle will be down on personnel and confidence.

Perth should be flying given the positive run of form they have been experiencing since former manager Ian Ferguson was replaced by ex-Perth player and Joeys coach Alastair Edwards.

Perth has beaten the Central Coast Mariners and Sydney FC since the arrival of their new manager and has instituted an impressive passing game that has made them look far more dangerous than at any other stage throughout the season.

Striking even more fear into opposing sides is the fact that their prolific Kiwi front man Shane Smeltz has been back amongst the goals in recent weeks, including the decider in the win over Sydney.

Another positive for the visitor is the return of their inspirational skipper Jacob Burns. No matter what you may think of the man, the Glory midfield is much stronger and influential when he is a part of it.

Newcastle is going to have a challenge on its hands rebounding from last week's humiliating effort against a side that is in good form and feeling as confident as they have all year.

Newcastle need look no further than their conquerors from last week, who themselves overcame a 6-2 belting at the hands of the Mariners to inflict the club record defeat on the Jets.

It just seems that it will be too much for the Jets to overcome, especially now that they are down both of their leading goal scorers with Heskey's untimely injury and Ryan Griffiths leaving for China.

**Kiss of Death**
**Jets 0-1 Glory**

### As A Matter Of Fact

- When these teams last met, Perth Glory more than accounted for the Jets in a 3-0 victory at home
- Perth Glory are poised for their fourth consecutive victory over the Jets for the second time in club history, having only previously beaten one other club on four successive occasions (Adelaide, March 2012)
- Newcastle Jets are undefeated in their last six home games, coupled with five consecutive away losses for the Glory (in which they have scored just two goals) spells danger for Perth's finals aspirations
- Newcastle conceded five goals for the seventh time in club history, equalling their clubs Biggest Ever Loss
- The Jets have not dealt well with high-deficit losses with a 1w-3d-2l record the week after conceding five goals

### Glory Line Up

1.Danny Vukovic (gk)
2.Jack Clisby
5.Steve Pantelidis
8.Dean Heffernan
9.Shane Smeltz
10.Liam Miller
12.Ryo Nagai
13.Travis Dodd
14.Steven McGarry
17.Chris Harold
18.Matias Cordoba
19.Josh Risdon
21.Scott Jamison
23.Michael Thwaite
30 Lewis Italiano (gk)

Ins: 7. Jacob Burns (returns from injury), 8.Dean Heffernan, 13.Travis Dodd (returns from injury)

Outs: 5.Steve Pantelidis (bruised heel), 15.Brandon O'Neill, 28.Daniel De Silva

Unavailable: 5.Steve Pantelidis (bruised heel)

# Sydney FC v Central Coast Mariners

## Sat Mar 09 Allianz Stadium 5:30pm

### Sydney FC Line Up

1. Ivan Necevski (gk)
2. Sebastian Ryall
7. Brett Emerton
8. Adam Griffiths
9. Paul Reid
10. Alessandro Del Piero
12. Blake Powell
13. Tiago Calvano
15. Terry McFlynn
16. Joel Chianese
17. Terry Antonis
20. Vedran Janjetovic (gk)
21. Yairo Yau
22. Ali Abbas
23. Rhyan Grant
26. Peter Triantis
29. Joel Griffiths
(Two to be omitted)

Ins : Yairo Yau (promoted), Blake Powell (promoted), Paul Reid (promoted), Sebastian Ryall (returns from suspension)

Out: Fabio (suspended), Lucas Neill (calf, 1 week)

Unavailable: 3. Fabio (suspended, 1 week), Lucas Neill (calf, 1 week), Pascal Bosschaart (heel, season), Kruno Lovrek (knee, 2 weeks)

By Adrian Deans

**I could suggest a radical new strategy for Sydney in this game – lure Mariners players into the Sydney box and then hack them down as brutally as possible. The resultant penalty will be saved, and then the Mariners will drop their heads and be ripe for plucking. I doubt whether Frank Farina would have the ingenuity or courage to come up with such a plan, but that's why he's an A-League coach and I'm just a dashingly handsome pundit.**

The Mariners humiliated Sydney in the first encounter this season, but Sydney avenged themselves at home in a match remarkably similar to the one just played at Bluetongue on the weekend. The Mariners dominated, made chance after chance but couldn't finish, and were punished at the death by Brett Emerton's looping header.

That win breathed life into Sydney's campaign – which until that goal was lying on the slab with a definite greenish tinge. Farina has done an excellent job of instilling some resilience into the Sydney boys but, for all their stars, I still don't think they're playing very well. They seem disconnected – they don't move as a unit and play in accordance with a system the way (for example) the Mariners do.

When the Mariners win the ball, their first objective is (via one and two touches) to move the ball quickly to someone in space. From there they will move forward, but ball security with time and space is the key to their attacking shape and momentum. From there, everyone knows their job, and just as importantly, knows the job of their team mates. Patrick Zwaanswijk knows that Pedj Bojic will make the run wide when he has the ball on halfway. Montgomery knows that Ibini or McGlinchey will run the inside channels when he has the ball on the edge of the third, and they all know that Daniel McBreen will be on the spot if they can get the ball to him.

Sydney don't know each other's game well enough to do any of that so they need to rely on desperate defence and the genius of Del Piero. The Mariners will dominate possession, territory and chances but the longer they don't take them, the more Sydney will grow in confidence that they can get something out of the game.

They need to. With only four games left to clamber over the log jam in front of them – a hurting, vengeful Central Coast is the last team they'd want to play. The Mariners will be desperate for payback after their last trip to Allianz (especially for the antics of Peter Triantis who was lucky to stay on the park that day) and their undeserved loss to the Wanderers.

Sydney will be all too aware that, on their day, the Mariners can tear teams to tatters – unless, of course, they win a penalty. Then they're screwed.

**Kiss of Death**
**Sydney FC 0-3 Mariners**

### As A Matter Of Fact

- Brett Emerton provided a late winner in the last match between these two teams, granting the Sky Blues a 1-0 victory over the then ladder leaders
- Sydney FC have not defeated Central Coast in consecutive matches since 23 December 2009
- Sydney FC will be out to win their sixth consecutive home match, furthering their current streak and club record
- Central Coast Mariners have not tasted consecutive defeats since their Major Semi Final loss to Brisbane Roar last season
- Central Coast Mariners have won just four times from thirteen attempts against the Sky Blues at Allianz Stadium

### Mariners Line Up

1. Mathew Ryan (Gk)
2. Daniel Mcbreen
3. Joshua Rose
4. Pedj Bojic
5. Zachary Anderson
6. Patrick Zwaanswijk
7. John Hutchinson
8. Adriano Pellegrino
9. Bernie Ibini
11. Oliver Bozanic
13. Brent Griffiths
14. Michael Mcglinchey
15. Brad Mcdonald
16. Trent Sainsbury
17. Anthony Caceres
18. Nick Montgomery
19. Mitchell Duke
20. Justin Pasfield
21. Mile Sterjovski
29. Nick Fitzgerald
(Five to be omitted)

Ins: 8. Adriano Pellegrino, 13. Brent Griffiths, 15. Brad Mcdonald, 17. Anthony Caceres, 21. Mile Sterjovski (all promoted)

Out: Nil

Unavailable: 23. Adam Kwasnik (Knee – Season)

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# Brisbane Roar v Melbourne Victory

## Sat Mar 09 Suncorp Stadium 7:45pm

By Jarrod Ellis

**Brisbane Roar v Melbourne Victory II. This Time It's Not Personal. That's the official tagline for this Saturday's clash between Brisbane and Melbourne Victory. Referencing the departed Ange Postecoglou and his first appearance back in Brisbane since his new side's 6-0 drubbing back in Round Two.**

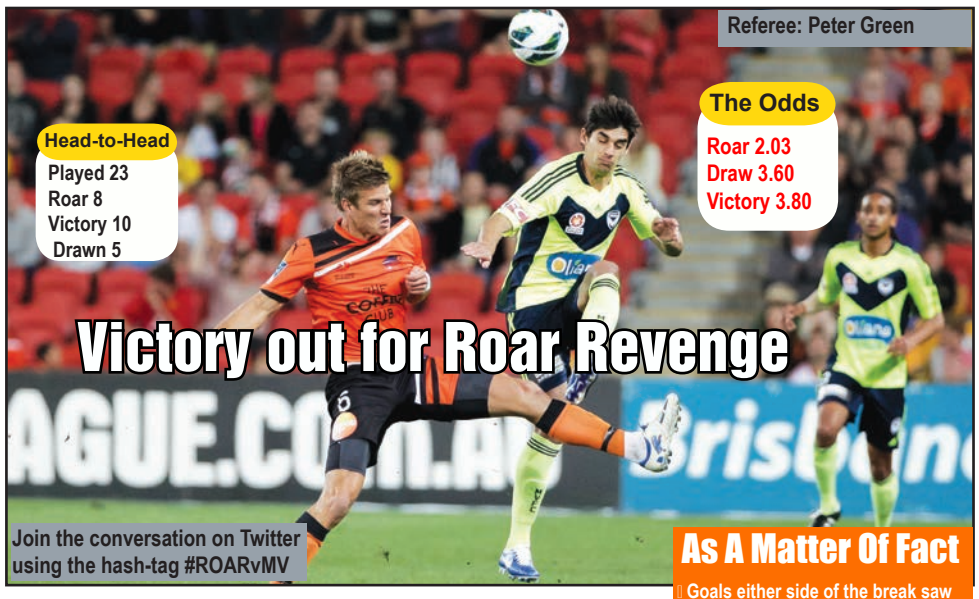
There was obvious feeling amongst the crowd and the players on that occasion and it turned out to be one of the few times this season that Brisbane Roar played with the kind of desire and attacking verve that they were known for during Postecoglou's reign.

Since then Brisbane have struggled to stay in touch with the finals places whilst Victory have made significant strides, at one point looking like possible A-League Premiers. Those hopes may have faded but as things stand currently they look the only team capable of denying either Central Coast Mariners or Western Sydney Wanderers the Toilet Seat.

Last weekend was good to both teams, Brisbane winning away to Adelaide to move into sixth place whilst Victory are outright third on the ladder following a 5-0 thumping of Newcastle.

The return of Archie Thompson was cited by many pundits as one of the main reasons for Melbourne's first win in four matches and his combination with Marco Rojas shined once again.

Rojas and Thompson were both absent from the early season 6-0 loss to Brisbane and their impact on the team shouldn't be underestimated.




Indeed Victory has won just one of six without Thompson this season while it concedes 3.2 goals per game without him (19 in six games) and just 1.1 when he plays.

Strange figures considering Thompson remains primarily a striker, but the importance of his presence alongside Rojas in attack is also born out in the stats.

Thompson and Rojas have combined to account for 51% of the team's goals this season, an impressive figure especially when remembering that Victory have the second highest goal tally in the league.

The presence of those two alone should make for a very different match than the Round Two encounter with Brisbane. Boosting the hopes of Melbourne fans for revenge is the improvement in play from their team since then and the expected return of Marco Flores to the team, absent from the side in recent weeks due to injury.

Brisbane fans will be hoping history repeats itself but despite a recent upturn in results that has seen the club maintain its finals chances it will come as a surprise to all and sundry if the Roar can record such a comprehensive victory once again.

Pre-season signing Ben Halloran is set to remain on the bench for the Roar with Coach Mike Mulvey reportedly telling the winger that he needs to improve his performances if he's to return to the starting eleven.

Victory have only been held scoreless twice all season and Brisbane will need to score goals to take anything away from this match, one that could well end up being the highlight of the round.

### As A Matter Of Fact

- Goals either side of the break saw each team share the spoils when their last encounter ended in a 1-all draw
- Melbourne Victory remain winless in their last seven matches against the Roar, conceding 19 goals
- Brisbane Roar are poised for their fifth straight win against the Victory when playing at Suncorp Stadium

**Kiss of Death**
**Roar 2-2 Victory**

### Roar Line Up

1. Michael Theo (gk)
3. Shane Stefanutto
4. Matt Jurman
5. Ivan Franjic
7. Besart Berisha
8. Massimo Murdocca
9. Stef Nijland
10. Henrique
11. Ben Halloran
13. Jade North
14. Steven Lustica
15. James Donachie
17. Mitch Nichols
18. Luke Brattan
19. Jack Hingert
20. Matt Acton (gk)
22. Thomas Broich (c)
25. George Lambadaridis.
(Three to be omitted)

Ins: 8. Massimo Murdocca (returns from injury), 4. Matt Jurman (promoted), 25. George Lambadaridis (promoted)

Outs: Nil

Unavailable: 2. Matt Smith (hip – season)

### Victory Line Up

1. Tando Velaphi (GK)
3. Adama Traore
5. Mark Milligan
6. Leigh Broxham
8. Jonathan Bru
9. Marcos Flores
10. Archie Thompson
11. Marco Rojas
13. Diogo Ferreira
14. Billy Celeski
17. Jimmy Jeggo
18. Francesco Stella
21. Spase Dilevski
22. Jesse Makarounas
23. Adrian Leijer
26. Andrew Nabbout
31. Scott Galloway
32. Connor Pain
33. Daniel Mullen
39. Nathan Coe (GK)
(Five to be omitted)

Ins: Marcos Flores (returns from injury)

Outs:

Unavailable: 7. Gui FINKLER (knee) 24.Nick ANSELL (groin)

# WS Wanderers v Wellington Phoenix

## Sun Mar 10 Parramatta Stdm 5:00pm

By Joe Gallagher

**Both Wellington Phoenix and Western Sydney Wanderers will have no shortage of motivation on Sunday afternoon.**

The Phoenix are desperate to avoid this season's wooden spoon, and to establish some respectability to a disappointing season that has – in truth, been far from respectable.

Wellington needs a rare away win to haul themselves above Perth Glory and from the league's cellar.

On the other hand, the Wanderers are just a handful of wins from a minor premiership in their debut season, an achievement that would be heralded as one of the A-League's most impressive performances.

A win – which would be their ninth in a row – could guarantee them a place in the league's top two come season end. A loss, however, could see them overtaken by their victims last weekend, Central Coast.

Given their contrasting fortunes, you could be forgiven for thinking this game was little more than a formality for Tony Popovic's men.

It was a 2-0 win in Wellington which kickstarted the Wanderers' eight game winning streak, and they will no doubt be eager to bookend their miraculous run with wins over the New Zealanders, who are in crisis of late, having dealt with the resignation of coach Ricki Herbert last weekend.

But they provided a silver lining of sorts in securing a rare 1-0 win against Melbourne Heart at Dunedin's Forsyth Barr Stadium on Sunday. The win saw a return to form of Paul Ifill, and the continuation of a goal-scoring streak for Jeremy Brockie.

If the Phoenix are to salvage anything from their first trip to Parramatta, you would think that those two will have to fire on all cylinders.

They'll be without Belgian striker Stein Huysegems who, despite being unlucky not to have scored a brace in Otago, was dismissed for a second bookable offence late on in the victory. Tyler Boyd looks to be the likely beneficiary of Huysegems' absence.

It would come as little surprise if Greenacre opted to select an otherwise unchanged side, given the impressive levels of enthusiasm and passion shown against John Aloisi's side.

Popovic could also be forgiven for not tinkering too much with a side that has undoubtedly been the form team of 2013, and was rewarded with a spot at the summit of the ladder after the win at a damp and blustery Bluetongue Stadium on Saturday night.

Another bumper crowd is to be expected at the ground, which is in stark contrast to the Phoenix, who played in front of a little over 3000 fans in their marquee visit to the country's south.

Make no mistake about it, the odds are against the Phoenix. But having resigned their ambitions to little more than spoiling the leading teams' parties, an upset in Western Sydney would be precisely the tonic for an uninspiring campaign.

There's pride in this Phoenix side yet, and they're not going to condemn themselves to the wooden spoon quite yet.

### As A Matter Of Fact

- A quick-fire double in the second half gave the Wanderers their first victory over the Phoenix, 2-0 in their last encounter
- Western Sydney Wanderers are on the cusp of an A-League record nine straight victories, as well as a club record fourth home victory in succession
- All stats point to another Jeremy Brockie goal this weekend, with the striker currently on a three match scoring streak as well as being the only Phoenix player to have beaten Ante Covic in his tenure at the Wanderers

**Kiss of Death**
**Wanderers 2-1 Phoenix**

### Wanderers Line Up

1. Ante Covic (GK)
2. Shannon Cole
3. Adam D'Apuzzo
4. Nikolai Topor-Stanley
5. Michael Beauchamp
6. Jerome Polenz
7. Labinot Haliti
8. Mateo Poljak
9. Dino Kresinger
10. Aaron Mooy
11. Tarek Elrich
13. Joey Gibbs
14. Kwabena Appiah-Kubi
15. Reece Caira
16. Rocky Visconte
17. Youssouf Hersi
18. Iacopo La Rocca
19. Mark Bridge
20. Jerrad Tyson (GK)
21. Shinji Ono
23. Jason Trifiro
25. Josh Barresi
(Seven to be omitted)

Ins: 2. Shannon Cole, 13. Joey Gibbs, 14. Kwabena Appiah-Kubi , 15. Reece Caira, 16. Rocky Visconte, 23. Jason Trifiro (all promoted). 25. Josh Barresi (new signing)

Outs: nil
Unavailable: 12. Tahj Minniecon (foot season)

### Phoenix Line Up

1. Mark Paston (GK)
2. Manny Muscat
3.Tony Lochhead
4. Isaka Cernak
7. Leo Bertos
8. Paul Ifill
11. Jeremy Brockie
12. Tyler Boyd
15. Cameron Lindsay
16. Louis Fenton
17. Vince Lia
18. Ben Sigmund
20. Glen Moss (GK)
21. Dani Sanchez
22. Andrew Durante (C)
23. Corey Gameiro
(One to be omitted)

In: 4. Isaka Cernak (returns from injury), 15. Cameron Lindsay (promoted).

Out: Stein Huysegems (suspended).

Unavailable: 10. Stein Huysegems (suspended), 19. Jimmy Downey (knee – indefinite)

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# Melbourne Heart v Adelaide United

**Mon Mar 11 AAMI Park 7:30pm**

## Heart Line Up

1. Clint Bolton (GK)
3. Cameron Edwards
4. Simon Colosimo
5. Fred
6. Patrick Gerhardt
8. Matt Thompson
11. Richard Garcia
13. Jonatan Germano
14. Golgol Mebrahtu
15. David Williams
16, Marcel Meeuwis
17. Jason Hoffman
18. David Vrankovic
19. Ben Garuccio
20. Andrew Redmayne (GK)
21. Jamie Coyne
22. Nick Kalmar
25. Jeremy Walker
36. Eli Babalj
(Five to be omitted)

Ins: 3. Cameron Edwards (promoted), 10. Josip Tadic (returns from injury), 17. Jason Hoffman (promoted), 18. David Vrankovic (promoted), 19. Ben Garuccio (promoted)

Outs: Nil

Unavailable: 23. Mate Dugandzic (broken foot – season)

By Andrew Bishara

**Melbourne Heart coach, John Aloisi must be getting sick and tired of constantly being asked questions about his side's dismal away form. Last weekend, favourites to take the points against the bottom-placed Wellington Phoenix, they lost 1-0.**

Aloisi said the Heart's away record was "very frustrating" and is he still looking for the reason why his side just can't get the points away from home.

"We're very good at home and we can beat anyone," he said. "But away from home, it seems we can't get a result"

Remarkably, the last time the Heart won interstate was on December 29, 2011, when they smashed Sydney FC 4-0 at the Allianz Stadium. It's now been 15 games without a win.

Aloisi should have some better hopes this weekend, as they'll be back at home to face Adelaide. However, that doesn't mean that he will be relaxed. The Heart are in the one of the toughest (and most open) finals race in A-League history. Only six points separate the sixth place Newcastle Jets to the bottom placed Wellington Phoenix. Any one of those six teams, who can get one a decent run (and hope their rivals drop some points) can make the finals. It also means that every game the teams' play, is a final itself.

A win against Adelaide this week, will hopefully kick start a decent run for the Heart, who are sitting in seventh, on 27 points, one point behind the Brisbane Roar and three away from the Newcastle Jets. The Jets have a game in hand and will play the Perth Glory on Friday night. The Roar will play the Melbourne Victory. The Heart will be hoping that their Melbournian rivals can do them a favour.

That's not to say that the Heart have bagged the three points. Adelaide are safe in the knowledge that they will make the finals, but its all about getting a good run into the finals, especially since the sudden departure of John Kosmina.

Adelaide boss, Mike Valkanis was given the job to revive the club, but they've struggled badly for form. So much so, that rumours have surfaced over dressing room rifts between players and coach and problems with defender Cassio having to ensure that nothing is out of place.

"When we lose games some people are not happy, fans aren't happy and everybody is not happy," Cassio said. "Of course, it's normal that people are bringing in stuff about some things that are happening in the change rooms. But we're pretty good together as a group.

"I still think we're learning the way Mickey wants us to play," Cassio said. "And I think the players are still learning the way he wants us to play so it could be the reason why we're not playing good."

Regardless, United have to pick up their pace if want to make a real challenge in the finals. With Dario Vidosic set to miss the game through injury and the Heart's impressive home record, I expect Alosis's men to take the points here.

## As A Matter Of Fact

- Early goals in each half to the Melbourne Heart set the platform for a 2-0 victory when they last faced Adelaide United
- Eli Babalj (3) and Ian Ramsay (2) are the only current players to have scored more than once in previous iterations of this fixture
- Adelaide United have not won in their last seven away matches
- Melbourne Heart have only defeated Adelaide in Melbourne once in the three matches played, which happened to be their last encounter
- Matt Thompson will become the first player in A-League history

**Kiss of Death**
**Heart 2-0 AUFC**

## Adelaide Utd Line Up

1.Eugene Galekovic (gk) (c)
3.Nigel Boogaard
4.Jon McKain
5.Iain Fyfe
6.Cassio
8.Marcelo Carrusca
10.Dario Vidosic
12.Antony Golec
14.Cameron Watson
16.Daniel Bowles
17.Iain Ramsay
20.Paul Izzo (gk)
21.Jeronimo Neumann
22.Fabio Ferreira
23.Evan Kostopoulos
24.Awer Mabil
25.Tomi Juric
(Two to be omitted)

Ins: Jon McKain (returns from suspension), Iain Fyfe (promoted), Fabio Ferreira (returns from injury)

Outs: Osama Malik (suspended – 1 match)

Unavailable: Bruce Djite (ankle – 1 week)

# Victory revival leading to business end

## A-League Rewind

By Robert Di Fabio

**Melbourne Victory's 5-0 rout over the Newcastle Jets last weekend has catapulted the club's championship aspirations, following a poor run of form, which saw the club lose three consecutive matches.**

The win not only put Victory's season back on track, but it also help avoid an embarrassing club record of four straight A-League losses. The return of veteran Archie Thompson, from a hamstring injury, proved to have a dramatic upshot on the team's performance – linking beautifully with Marco Rojas to torture the Jet's backline in a dramatic opening half of football.

While the Victory hierarchy may not want to admit it wholeheartedly, the presence of Thompson is pivotal for the team's on-field structure. His attacking prowess, silky skills and ability to create goals makes the Socceroo seemingly unreplaceable.

Victory boss Ange Postecoglou was delighted with the team's killer instinct in-front of goal, drawing comparisons to when they caused havoc to opposition defences earlier in the campaign.

"We just looked a lot more threatening going forward like we had for most of the year," he said.

"When we were playing well, we look very dangerous going forward. I thought today, particularly in the first half, every time we went up we looked like we were going to score a goal.

"Our intent was very positive and the players felt very good about it so I guess that's the key thing. When we play well, we're a dangerous team and we're always threatening oppositions.

"I thought that was really evident, particularly in the first half-hour today."

Noticeably, the return of a majestic Thompson was an added bonus for the team. However, his presence also allowed counterpart Marco Rojas to shine. The young Kiwi international had evidently struggled for form in recent weeks, with the absence of Thompson.

Undoubtedly, Rojas had an extra spring in his step. His partnership with Thompson is arguably the most lethal in the competition. Not only does it give the young winger an excursion of confidence, it also means he isn't the central focus of opposition defences –important factors when assessing his overall game.

"He (Thompson) is an important player and he's a key player in our team. It helps," Postecoglou revealed.

"Not just Archie being out there, but then it helps people like Marco and even young Connor Pain because obviously the opposition have to pay attention to him.

"It just makes us look more threatening in different areas. We probably, the last few weeks, because of absences of players we've been pretty easy to shut down because they're shutting one or two avenues, we're not finding other ways through.

"With Archie there and when Marcos (Flores) comes back, we've got two or three different ways to open up an opposition and that helps."

With the return of Marcos Flores impending, it adds to the abundance of star-studded attacking flavour at the Victory's disposal. In further good news, exciting youth prodigy Connor Pain has signed his first professional contract during the week, inking a deal which will see him at the club for a further two seasons.

The Premiers Plate, while still mathematically possible, is almost certainly a bridge too far for Postecoglou's troops. Their horrid run of three successive defeats – all against clubs in the top four – decimated the aspirations of topping the ladder.

On the contrary, if the navy blues can replicate its destructive attacking flare at the business end of the campaign, there is little to suggest why this team cannot be serious contenders for the title.

A-League front-runners Western Sydney Wanderers and Central Coast Mariners are obvious favourites at this point in time. Their top of the table clash last weekend – at a rain-soaked Bluetongue Stadium – was an exhilarating display of football from start to finish.

Tony Popovic's men are certainly a difficult outfit to contain, having now equalled Victory's eight-game winning streak – an unfathomable notion given it's their first season in the competition.

Given the revamped finals system this season, the finals series is truly an unpredictable jigsaw to predict. Although, going by current form and resources available, it's difficult not to envisage either of the Wanderers, Mariners or Victory holding up this season's championship prize.

**Follow Robert on Twitter @ RobertDiFabio**

## Hyundai Goal for Grassroots

Congratulations to North Lions Football Club for being selected as the Hyundai Goals For Grassroots junior club for Round 23. By virtue of Melbourne Victory scoring 5 goals this round, the club received a $6000 grant courtesy of Hyundai.

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Emile Heskey is an [illegible] footballer plays as a striker fo[illegible]astle Jets before joining the Aus[illegible] he made more 500 appearances Fo[illegible]remier League over an 18-year ca[illegible] and represented England i[illegible]national football.




# EMILE HESKEY

9

PHOTO & GRAPHICS: ANITA MILAS

FOOTBALL FEDERATION VICTORIA

Men's FFV State Knockout Cup Round Two Fixtures:

**Old Carey v Manningham United**
State Football Centre, Thornbury
11:00am Saturday 9 March

**Mazenod United v Prahran City**
Kingston Heath Soccer Complex, Cheltenham
2:00pm Saturday 9 March

**Mitchell Rangers v Heidelberg Stars**
State Football Centre, Thornbury
2:00pm Saturday 9 March

**Cobram Victory v Wangaratta City**
Barooga Recreational Reserve, Cobram
3:00pm Saturday 9 March

**Sunshine George Cross v Point Cook**
Chaplin Reserve, Sunshine
3:00pm Saturday 9 March

**Sandown Lions v Mornington**
Dallas Brooks Park, Mornington
3:00pm Saturday 9 March

**Elwood City v Seaford United**
Elwood Park, Elwood
3:00pm Saturday 9 March

**Hoppers Crossing v Altona North**
Grange Reserve, Hoppers Crossing
3:00pm Saturday 9 March

**Bundoora United v Mill Park**
Hillsview Recreation Reserve, South Morang
3:00pm Saturday 9 March

**Berwick City v St Kilda City**
Jack Thomas Reserve, Narre Warren North
3:00pm Saturday 9 March

**Keilor Park v Corio**
Keilor Park Recreation Reserve, Keilor Park
3:00pm Saturday 9 March

**Western Eagles v Warrnambool Wolves**
Polish Sports & Recreation Complex, Albion
3:00pm Saturday 9 March

**Sebastopol Vikings v Brimbank Stallions**
St Georges Reserve, Sebastopol
3:00pm Saturday 9 March

**Kingston City v Keysborough**
The Grange Reserve, Clayton South
3:00pm Saturday 9 March

**Malvern City v Riversdale**
To Be Confirmed

**Westvale v St Albans Saints**
To Be Confirmed

**Balmoral v Melbourne Lions**
To Be Confirmed

**Moreland City v Fawkner Blues**
Moreland City win via forfeit

**Cairnlea v Ballarat Red Devils**
Trekardo Park, Ballarat
3:00pm Saturday 9 March

**Monash University v Springvale White Eagles**
White Eagle Stadium, Keysborough
3:00pm Saturday 9 March

**Old Camberwell Grammarians v Monbulk Rangers**
Clifton Park, Brunswick
4:00pm Saturday 9 March

**Northern Roosters v La Trobe University**
La Trobe Uni Lower Playing Field, Bundoora
4:00pm Saturday 9 March

**Brighton v Parkmore**
Parkmore Soccer Club, Keysborough
5:00pm Saturday March 9

**Eltham Redbacks v Clifton Hill**
State Football Centre, Thornbury
5:00pm Saturday 9 March

**Knox City v Old Melburnians**
State Football Centre, Thornbury
5:00pm Saturday 9 March

**Middle Park v South Yarra**
State Football Centre, Thornbury
5:00pm Saturday 9 March

**Brunswick City v West Preston**
Dunstan Reserve, Brunswick West
5:30pm Saturday 9 March

**Melbourne University v Glen Waverley**
Knox Regional Football Centre, Wantirna South
6:30pm Saturday 9 March

**Boroondara Eagles v Croydon City Arrows**
Dorset Recreation Reserve, Croydon
6:00pm Monday 11 March

**Old Xaverians v Box Hill United**
State Football Centre, Thornbury
8:30pm Wednesday 13 March

**Watsonia Heights v Preston Lions**
Gabonia Avenue Reserve, Watsonia
3:00pm Sunday 17 March

**Shepparton v Sunbury United**
Langama Park, Sunbury
3:00pm Sunday 17 March

# New match fixing laws ensure integrity of Victorian sport

**The Victorian Coalition Government will introduce tough new match fixing legislation to Parliament this week in order to protect the integrity of the state's multi-billion dollar sporting industry, outgoing Premier Ted Baillieu announced on Tuesday.**

Mr Baillieu said that under the new legislation, an individual found guilty of match fixing would face a maximum prison term of 10 years.

"Victorians love their sport and there is absolutely no doubt that this state is the sporting capital of Australia," Mr Baillieu said.

"Victoria is the home of the very best sporting facilities and events anywhere in Australia, if not the world, and the Coalition Government is committed to protecting this vital industry.

"Anyone who attempts to manipulate professional sport for betting outcomes is a cheat and they will be caught and punished under these tough new laws," Mr Baillieu said.

The Crimes Amendment (Integrity in Sport) Bill 2013 targets people who attempt to engage in match fixing, race fixing and spot fixing.

**The bill aims to outlaw four key types of offences:**

**- Engaging in conduct that corrupts or would corrupt a betting outcome;**

**- Facilitating conduct that corrupts or would corrupt a betting outcome;**

**- Concealing such conduct, agreements or arrangements; and**

**- Use of corrupt information for betting purposes.**

Minister for Sport and Recreation Hugh Delahunty said the legislation was aligned with laws recently introduced in New South Wales and similar legislation currently before the South Australian Parliament.

"In late 2011, the State and Territory Attorneys-General and Sporting Ministers agreed to implement a consistent approach to match fixing legislation right across the nation," Mr Delahunty said.

"This legislation provides certainty and transparency for the many thousands of fans, participants and employees involved in all professional sporting disciplines here in Victoria."

Minister for Racing Denis Napthine said the new match fixing legislation implemented one of the key recommendations outlined in the Racing Integrity Commissioner's recent own motion investigation into race fixing.

The report found no evidence of systemic race fixing in Victoria but outlined a series of recommendations to enhance integrity process across all three racing codes.

"The introduction of this new match fixing legislation follows the establishment of a new Victoria Police Sporting Integrity Intelligence Unit which was also a recommendation of the Racing Integrity Commissioner (RIC) report," Dr Napthine said.

"I recently met with representatives of all three racing codes and the Department of Justice and we have formed a working group to continue working through each of the RIC recommendations.

"The integrity of sport and racing in Victoria is held in high regard and the Coalition Government is committed to ensuring that we remain vigilant, continually improve our integrity system and enhance our reputation as the best sporting state anywhere in the world," Dr Napthine said.

Minister for Gaming Michael O'Brien said the new match-fixing legislation was flagged when the government responded to the findings of the 2011 Review of Sports Betting Regulation conducted by former chairman of stewards for Racing Victoria, Mr Des Gleeson.

"Victoria is the only state with comprehensive sports betting legislation and is a leader in this area of regulation," Mr O'Brien said.

"The community is rightly concerned about any potential for betting to undermine the integrity of our sporting events, and the Coalition Government's further measures will ensure Victoria not only remains at the forefront, but also that the integrity of our sporting competitions is protected."

## Stevo's Corner

## By Steve Scott

**Not even the best storyteller could have come up with a script like this current A-League season. We are only four rounds before the A-League finals commence and the leagues newest club, the West Sydney Wanderers are sitting on top of the table.**

**Back on the 4th of April 2012 when then FFA CEO Ben Buckley announced the creation of the Western Sydney club, it would have taken a brave person to predict the new club would be sitting in the position it currently finds itself in during its first season. Not even the most optimistic member of the Red and Black Bloc would have dreamed their club would be topping the table in their first season.**

**It is my opinion, last week's 1-0 victory at Blue Tongue Stadium over the Central Coast Mariners is proof the Wanderers are the real deal. I'm even prepared to go as far as declaring that the Wanderers are a sure thing to win the A-League Premiership at the end of the regular season.**

**In what promises to be an exciting A-League finals series, Wanderers fans will be dreaming of their club claiming the A-League Championship in their first season.**

**Let's move from one unbelievable story to yet another one. A Chelsea Manager has finally had the courage to speak out against the club owner, Roman Abramovich, and the clubs fans.**

**Lets be honest, since his appointment as interim manager of Chelsea, Rafa Benitez has been up against it. Since he put foot inside Chelsea Football Club, he has had a massive target on his back.**

**Instead of getting behind their team and providing them with the support they deserve, a minority of Chelsea supporters have made it their mission to get Benitez out of the club since his appointment. Benitez taking a stand like he did is a breath of fresh air coming from a Chelsea manager.**

**Since Roman Abramovich took over as owner of Chelsea in June 2003, the club has had eight different managers. With Benitez confirming he will be leaving his post as interim manager at the end of this season, Chelsea will be on the look out for its ninth different manager in 10 years. Given the recent treatment of managers and the track record of how easily managers are sacked at Chelsea, you have to wonder who in their right mind would want to take on the job this summer?**

## SHORT PASSES

**Northcote Season Launch**

VPL club Northcote City FC will hold its Season Launch 2013 on Friday 22nd March from 7.30pm onwards at the Northcote City FC Social Club John Cain Reserve, Northcote.
All are invited. Free Admission, Food Provided. Drinks at Bar Prices
New 2013 Playing Strip, New Sponsors
New Player Signings
All to be unveiled on the night!!

**Cairnlea Seeks Juniors**

FFV State League club Cairnlea FC located on Furlong Road in Cairnlea are seeking players for its U11 team and GIRLS Under 12s.

**Penfold Motors Cup at Eastern Lions**

The Pre-Season Penfold Cup continues this weekend with the following matches to be played on Saturday 9th March.

12.00 pm Moreland V Beaumaris
1.25 pm Eastern Lions V Scotch Old Boys
2.50 pm Riversdale V Middle Park
4.15 pm Morwell V Mooroolbark

FREE ENTRY FOR SPECTATORS
Food and drink available at reasonable prices. The bar will also be open.

Eastern Lions SC, Gardiners Reserve, Sixth Avenue, Burwood 3125



## Boo's World

SUMMER SERIES

## By Mark Boric

The Wanderers took the honours in the top of the table clash, as the Mariners continue to pay the penalty for missing all their penalties. After two consecutive misses by Daniel McBreen was followed up Nick Montgomery failing to convert during the midweek Asian Champions League tie, goalkeeper Matt Ryan stepped up when a spot kick was awarded on Saturday. You can bet the Mariners will be one team not content to settle for a penalty shoot-out come A-League Finals time.

The Wanderers supporters took over Bluetongue Stadium, generating the best away team support seen yet in the A-League. By contrast, Melbourne Victory fans staged a silent protest on Sunday. The Northern Terrace, feted by Michael Zappone as "Victory's 12th man" in radio ads on 1116SEN, were mere passengers as their team battered Newcastle Jets in the first half. When the protest ended after the interval, the goals began to dry up. Even Harry Kewell wasn't that much of a passenger for Victory.

There is no draft in the A-League, so why are Newcastle Jets tanking? Hot on the heels of the recent Australian Crime Commission media release which put the focus on integrity issues in Australia's elite sporting competitions, it's not an ideal scenario.

Melbourne Victory have won the National Youth League Championship from Central Coast Mariners in bizarre circumstances. With both teams level on points going into their last round clash, wild weather in New South Wales saw the match twice postponed. The FFA then abandoned trying to get the game played and awarded a 0-0 draw which handed Victory the title on goal difference. In most leagues around the world, a game that influences a championship/promotion/relegation outcome would always get played. It's sad that in the one FFA national competition decided on a "first past the post" basis the outcome has been a little clouded. Had it been an actual Grand Final, what would have occurred after two wash-outs?

The 1996 Dockerty Cup won by Melbourne Croatia, is held aloft by captain Andrew 'Stabber' Marth and coach Ian Dobson. Phot: JOHN PUNSHON

Kimon Taliadoros is running for a seat on the FFV Board in the upcoming elections. He was once set to run for the Presidency of Football New South Wales until the AGM that year was delayed following FFA intervention. I'm not going to talk him up, I reckon his PFA mate Craig Foster will be on the campaign trail with him soon enough.

The FFV State Knockout Cup is underway, and it is fair to say the competition has failed to engage the Victorian football community as it should. Perhaps the bad taste of it's launch as the Mirabella Cup when it was advertised as the chance to play against Melbourne Heart or Melbourne Victory is still in some people's mouths. After coughing up exorbitant entry fees, Heart and Victory were not put into the draw for reasons that could only be described as "unsatisfactory" at best. Botched draws, byes and forfeits have been synonymous with the new Cup. I call it new Cup, even though it appears that the old Dockerty Cup trophy was awarded last season.

Next time you see a token puff piece on the FFV website trumpeting their support for or honouring grassroots volunteers, think about this: The FFV staff dishonour the memory of the great pioneer Harry Dockerty by using the trophy named after him without acknowledging it's name. The man who bought and donated the trophy (originally played for as the Challenge Cup, it was more respectful football officials who later re-named it after him) suffers the indignity of having a great tribute revoked by that very trophy being used without the name on it being maintained. That is how the FFV really value volunteers.

## AGAINST ALL ODDS

**A-League Champion 2012/13**

| | |
|---|---|
| Central Coast Mariners | 2.70 |
| West Sydney Wanderers | 2.80 |
| Melbourne Victory | 6.00 |
| Adelaide United | 13.00 |
| Brisbane Roar | 19.00 |
| Melbourne Heart | 26.00 |
| Newcastle Jets | 26.00 |
| Sydney FC | 26.00 |
| Perth Glory | 34.00 |
| Wellington Phoenix | 81.00 |

Melbourne Knights and Sydney United players in front of the Mark Viduka Stand.

Sydney United won the Friendship Cup after defeating the Melbourne Knights 3-1 on penalties last Sunday at Knights Stadium, after the scores were locked 2-2 at full-time.

The home side lead twice but Sydney United pulled them back on both occasions, and with no extra time being played, penalties was the decider. Knights only scored one of their five spot kicks, missing the first two and the last two. All in all it was a great day out for both clubs as their preparations continue in anticipation for the start of the National Premier League. The respective competitions in Victoria and NSW start at the beginning of April.

The day also marked the unveiling of the new gym at Knights Stadium. Major sponsor of the Gym is Mr. Ivan Filipovic of I&D Constructions as well as the Major sponsor of the Club.

Melbourne Knights president Ang Cimera presents Sydney United captain Lukas Glavas with the trophy.

Sydney United coach Mark Rudan

Melbourne Knights coach Andrew Marth

Melbourne Knights' Ben Surrey tries out the new equipment

It's all eye of the tiger stuff down Somers Street way, and remember, there is no tomorrow!

# Couch Potato

* ALL TIMES ARE AEDT

## one

**Tuesday 12th March**
08:30 am Liverpool TV

**Friday 15th March**
07:30 am Liverpool TV

## SETANTA SPORTS

**FRIDAY 8TH MARCH**
**UEFA Europa League Round of 16** 1st Leg Anzhi v Newcastle 9:00am 1st Airing
**Copa Libertadores Second Stage** Matchday 4 Boca Juniors v Nacional 11:20am LIVE
**UEFA Europa League Round of 16** 1st Leg Stuttgart v Lazio 1:30pm 1st Airing
**UEFA Europa League Round of 16** 1st Leg Highlights Show 7:00pm 1st Airing

**SATURDAY 9TH MARCH**
**Bundesliga Round 25 Preview Show** 5:50am 1st Airing
**Bundesliga Round 25** Augsburg v Nuremburg 6:25am LIVE
**Blue Square Premier** Dartford v Wrexham 8:30am 1st Airing
**Copa Libertadores** Second Stage Matchday 4 Highlights Show 7:00pm 1st Airing

**SUNDAY 10TH MARCH**
**npower Championship Round 37** Crystal Palace v Leeds 1:55am LIVE
**SPL Round 30** Ross County v Celtic 7:35am 1st Airing
**Bundesliga Round 25** Schalke v Dortmund 9:25am 1st Airing
**Bundesliga Round 25** Monchengladbach v Bremen 11:15am 1st Airing
**Eredivisie Round 26** Heerenveen v PSV 1:05pm 1st Airing
**Bundesliga Round 25** Bayern Munich v Fortuna 2:55pm 1st Airing
**SPL Round 30** Hibernian v Hearts 11:40pm LIVE

**MONDAY 11TH MARCH**
**Bundesliga Round 25** Stuttgart v Hamburg 3:30am LIVE
**Eredivisie Round 26** Ajax v PEC 5:25am 1st Airing
**Primera Division Round 5** Teams TBC 7:20am 1st Airing
**Primera Division Round 5** Teams TBC 9:10am 1st Airing
**Eredivisie Round 26** Twente v Vitesse 11:50am 1st Airing
**Bundesliga Round 25** Hannover v Frankfurt 5:10pm 1st Airing
**Bundesliga Round 25 Highlights Show** 7:00pm 1st Airing

**TUESDAY 12TH MARCH**
**npower Championship Round 37** Burnley v Hull 6:40am LIVE
**npower Championship Round 37 Highlights Show** 7:00pm 1st Airing
**SPL Round 30 Highlights Show** 7:30pm LIVE
**Eredivisie Round 26 Highlights Show** 8:00pm 1st Airing

**THURSDAY 14TH MARCH**
**Copa Libertadores Second Stage** Matchday 5 Corinthians v Tijuana 10:50am LIVE

**FRIDAY 15TH MARCH**
**UEFA Europa League Round of 16** 2nd Leg Inter Milan v Tottenham 4:50am LIVE
**UEFA Europa League Round of 16** 2nd Leg Chelsea v Steaua Bucharest 6:55am LIVE
**UEFA Europa League Round of 16** 2nd Leg Newcastle v Anzhi 9:45am 1st Airing
**UEFA Europa League Round of 16** 2nd Leg Lazio v Stuttgart 12:15pm 1st Airing
**UEFA Europa League Round of 16** 2nd Leg Highlights Show 7:00pm 1st Airing

## SBS

**SBS ONE**
**Sunday March 10th**
**10:30 am** Football Asia
**11:00 am** UEFA Champions League Magazinee

**Monday March 11th**
**4:30 pm** FIFA Futbol Mundial
**11:00 pm** The World Game

**Thursday March 14th**
**11pm** Champions League Hour

**SBS TWO**
**Monday March 11th**
**9:30 pm** The World Game

**Thursday March 14th**
**8.30pm** Champions League Hour

**UEFA Champions League**
Wednesday 13 March
SBS ONE
6.30am (aedt) - **Barcelona v AC Milan** - Live from Camp Nou, Barcelona, Spain. Round of 16 (2nd Leg)

**SBS TWO**
9.30pm - **Barcelona v AC Milan** - From Camp Nou, Barcelona, Spain. Round of 16 (2nd Leg) (Rpt)

**Thursday 14 March**
**SBS ONE**
6.30am (aedt) - **Málaga v FC Porto** - Live from La Rosaleda, Málaga, Spain. Round of 16 (2nd Leg)

## FOX SPORTS

**ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE LIVE**
*Times listed are 7 minutes prior to kick-offs.*

**English Premier League**

**WEEK 30**
**Sun Mar 10 QPR v Sunderland**
1.53 am Fox 1
**Sun Mar 10 Norwich v Southampton**
1.53 am Viewers Choice
**Sun Mar 10 West Brom v Swansea**
1.53 am Viewers Choice
**Sun Mar 10 Reading v Aston Villa**
1.53 am Fox 3
**Mon Mar 11 Newcastle v Stoke**
1.53 am Fox 1
**Mon Mar 11 Liverpool v Tottenham**
2.53 am Fox 3

**Hyundai A-League**
**All games LIVE**

**Fri Mar 8 Newcastle Jets v Perth Glory**
7.30 pm Fox 3
**Sat Mar 9 Sydney FC v Central Coast**
5.30 pm Fox 3
**Sat Mar 9 Bris Roar v Melbourne Victory**
7.45 pm Fox 3
**Sun Mar 10 Western Sydney v Wellington**
5.00 pm Fox 3
**Mon Mar 11 Melbourne Heart v Adelaide Utd**
7.30 pm Fox 3

**FOX SPORTS FC**
Every Tuesday 8.30 pm

**ASIAN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE**
Wednesday 13 March
**Kashiwa Reysol v Central Coast**
8.55 pm
Fox Sports 3

# Round 24: ASK THE EXPERTS

THE VERDICT
Jets (2) Glory (4) Draw (2) - SFC (2) Mariners (5) Draw (1) - Roar (1) Victory (5) Draw (2) - Wanderers (8) Phoenix (0) Draw (0) - Heart (5) AUFC (2) Draw (1)

**SANTO CILAURO 56**
Jets
Draw
Draw
WSW
Heart
Last week: 3

**CRAIG MACKENZIE 55**
Draw
Mariners
Victory
Wanderers
Heart
Last week: 2

**EDDIE KRNCEVIC 50**
Glory
Mariners
Draw
Wanderers
Heart
Last week: 3

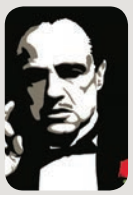
**PETER KATHOLOS 50**
Jets
Sydney FC
Victory
Wanderers
Adelaide
Last week: 1

**ROGER SLEEMAN 61**
Draw
Mariners
Roar
Wanderers
Draw
Last week: 2

**ANDY HARPER 48**
Perth
SFC
Victory
Wanderers
Heart
Last week: 2

**JOHN DOYLE 51**
Perth
Central Coast
Victory
Wanderers
Adelaide
Last week: 3

**KISS OF DEATH 55**
Glory
Mariners
Draw
Wanderers
Heart
Last week: 3



# Bayswater take out WA Night Series

NATIONAL PREMIER LEAGUES
**WA COUNTDOWN**

**Bayswater City ended a 26-year wait for a major trophy when they beat Cockburn City 2-1 to win the 2013 Football West Night Series Final at Macedonia Park last Sunday Evening.**

Second half goals to new signings Steve Burton and Trent Kay put Chris Coyne's side in control and despite a late goal from Eamon McNelis, that made it a nervous end, they hung on to send their loyal supporters into raptures.

Burton was delighted with the win. "We made it hard for ourselves near the end, but you know what to expect when you play Cockburn this year. They are a very physical team and we hit them on the counter attack, and it was nice to score a goal early in the second half," he said.

"It settled us down, as we were a little bit nervous, as we missed a few chances in the first half and I was guilty of it too. But it's great for these supporters, it's been 26-years for them to celebrate a final win, and it's nice to make a bit of history for this club."

It was a sombre start to the game when the big crowd stood as one in a minutes silence for WA state football coach Frank Longstaff, who passed away during the week. It was a bright opening for Bayswater and they had the first opportunity on three minutes. Todd Howarth's free kick was headed over the top by Gustavo Catarcione. The Italian striker was in again moments later, but his goal bound shot was deflected wide by McNelis.

The Cockerels settled and went close themselves on the quarter hour. Alex Castiello's long throw was flicked on by John Thornley and McNelis' shot flashed just wide.

They went even closer moments later, Paul Lloyd was given too much room on the edge of the penalty area and his low shot was well saved by Gianni Papalia at his near post. Cockburn were looking dangerous from set pieces and they went close to the opener on the half hour. Lloyd's corner from the left fell to Castiello, but his close-range shot was blocked by keeper Papalia.

But as the half ended it was Bayswater who began to take control, and Catarcione saw his shot flash inches past the post after being sent through by Howarth. Then in stoppage-time Brian Ferrell sent Burton clear, his first shot was blocked by Aleksic. The rebound fell kindly to Burton but the Cockburn custodian was alert to save his follow up shot.

At half time Bayswater coach Chris Coyne was happy with the side's performance, but disappointed they weren't in front. Some stern words at the break saw his side come out firing and just 60 seconds into the second half, Bayswater took the lead. Howarth cut inside from the left and his cross picked out Burton who side footed home from eight-yards. Bayswater were dominating and almost added a second four minutes later. Farrell played in Catarcione whose shot from 12-yards was superbly saved by Aleksic. From the resulting corner Burton's header was cleared off the line by McNelis.

Cockburn were working overtime to keep Bayswater at bay with Keiron Stallard and Paul Natale outstanding, but Burton should have done better when found by Catercione, but the former Ipswich Town trainee fired wide when well placed.

Their domination was rewarded on 83 minutes with a second. A quickly taken free kick by Howarth caught Cockburn napping and Kay fired home 10-yards.

But three minutes from time, Cockburn got themselves back into the game. Ian McMurray found space down the right, played the ball back to McNelis, who fired home low past Gianni Papalia from the edge of the penalty area.

It was too little too late for Scot Miller's side and at the final whistle it was Bayswater celebrating the victory. Bayswater Coach and former Perth Glory defender Chris Coyne was delighted for everyone at the club. "Yes I'm delighted, but I've got a few more grey hairs. We've worked hard in the pre-season and the boys deserve this, they have been fantastic ever since I was appointed," he said.

"But no disrespect to Cockburn I thought we should have scored few more, but if you don't take your chances you let the opposition in. I was disappointed to concede a goal late but they never stopped, and Scotty (Miller) has them well drilled and they will be tough to beat in the league this season."

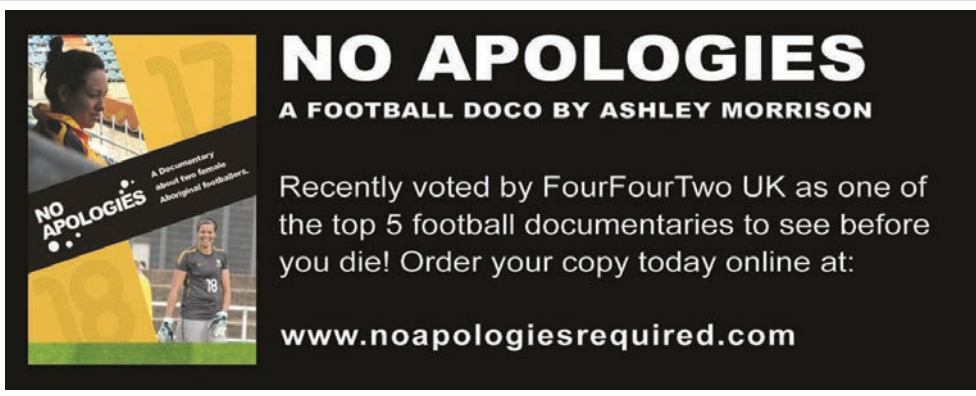
The Football West 2013 All Flags State Premier League season will kick off on Saturday, March 16.

Bayswater City celebrate their night series win. Photo by Alex Howell

**Football West Night Series Final**
**Cockburn City 1** *(McNelis 87')*
**Bayswater City 2** *(Burton 46', Kay 83')*
Sunday 3rd March 2013
Venue: Macedonia Park
Kick-off: 7.45pm
Attendance: 1,000 (Approx)
Referee: Paul Anderson

**Cockburn City:** Gk Dejan Aleksic, 3 Keiron Stallard, 4 Evan Grant, 6 Ian Stack, 9 Eamon Mcnelis, 10 Paul Lloyd, 18 Alex Castello, 12 Conor Kavagh, 13 John Thornley (7 Ian Mcmurray 62') 16 James Isaia (20 Matt Salmon 67'), 17 Paul Natale (C)
Substitutes Not Used: Rgk Jack Adams, 5 Jason Godfrey, 12 Aiden Da Luz,
Yellow Cards: Stallard 34', Grant 37'

**Bayswater City:** Gk Gianni Papalia, 2 Patrick Quinn, 4 John Kearney (C), 5 Andy Reale, 6 Todd Howarth, 7 Brian Farrell, 8 Paul Mccarthy, 11 Gustavo Catarcione (10 Damien Catalano 75'), 12 Steven Burton, 13 Trent Kay (3 Daniel Kovacevic 87'), 16 James Isaia (18 David Sesay 54')
Substitutes Not Used: Rgk Clint Davis, 17 Hassan Al Yassier
Yellow Cards: Burton 90+1'



# Aussies Make Their Mark In Overseas Leagues

**Most European leagues are back after a winter break, and the Asian and North American leagues are commencing the 2013 season. Meaning we have a lot of action to cover!! We have numerous club competitions in progress across each continent, with plenty of Aussies featuring. Majority of the transfer windows are closed, but plenty of loan activity has been taking place. The Socceroos were in action in February, and are now building up for the Oman clash later this month.**

Aziz Behich signed for Bursapor and debuted in the Turkish Cup

Ryan Griffiths left the Jets for China Super League

Tom Juric wasted no time hitting the mark at Adelaide Utd

Socceroo captain Lucas Neill returns to home shores with SFC

**Transfers:-** a steady stream of players coming to the Hyundai A League for the last few months of the season. Also several players that have decided to return to Australia after stints in Asia.

**Additions/changes to player database:**
**Emre Hasan Balci** *(5 Apr 1987) - transferred to Yeni Malatyaspor, Turkey*
**German Cabrera** *(15 Sep 1985) - transferred to Vasco SC, India*
**Matthew Fletcher** *(12 May 1992) - loan return to Sheffield Wednesday, England*
**Corey Gameiro** *(7 Feb 1993) - loan to Wellington Phoenix*
**Ryan Griffiths** *(21 Aug 1981) - transferred to Beijing Baxy, China*
**Steve Hayes** *(1 Feb 1985) - transferred to United Sikkim FC, India*
**Tomi Juric** *(22 Jul 1991) - loan to Adelaide United*
**Calvin Lovric** *(12 Sep 1992) - loan to SC Friens, Switzerland*
**Daniel Mullen** *(26 Oct 1989) - loan to Melbourne Victory, Australia*
**Michael Rutherford** *(1 Mar 1990) - transferred to Amicale FC, Vanuatu*
**Ryan Williams** *(28 Oct 1993) - loan to Gillingham, England*

**Removed from player database:**
**Julian Aguirre (Gombak United) - uncontracted, whereabouts unknown**
**Remo Capitani** *(US Agropoli 1921) - transferred to lower leagues, Italy*
**Jamie Coyne** *(Persib Bandung) - transferred to Melbourne Heart*
**Petar Franjic** *(Bangkok Glass) – transferred to Richmond SC, VIC*
**Brendan Gan (Sabah)**- *returned to Australia, uncontracted*
**Robbie Gaspar** *(Persib Bandung) - uncontracted, whereabouts unknown*
**James Georgeff** *(Torgelower SV) - uncontracted, whereabouts unknown*
**Adam Harris** *(Hayes & Yeading FC) - transferred to Adelaide Blue Eagles, SA*
**Kym Harris** *(Hayes & Yeading FC) - transferred to Adelaide Blue Eagles, SA*
**Kristopher Kioussis** *(CA Independiate) - returned to Australia, uncontracted*
**Jarrod Kyle** *(Sheffield Wednesday) - transferred to Sydney FC*
**Rashid Mahazi** *(CA Independiate) - returned to Australia, uncontracted*
**Lucas Neill** *(Al Wasl) - transferred to Sydney FC*
**Sean Rooney** *(Salgaocar FC) – transferred to Blacktown City FC, NSW*
**Ante Rozic** *(Metalurh Zaporizhya) - uncontracted, whereabouts unknown*
**Naum Sekulovski** *(Persema Malang) - returned to Australia, uncontracted*
**Aleks Vrteski** *(Persija Jakarta) - transferred to Stirling Lions, WA*
**Brad Walker** *(EIF) - returned to Australia, uncontracted*
**Daniell Zeleny** *(Gresik United) - uncontracted, whereabouts unknown*

**Club Level:-**
**England (Premiership) -** compared to the normal Aussie activity in the EPL, a fairly quiet month. **Brett Holman** is not starting very often at Aston Villa, while **Chris Herd** is nearing a comeback from injury. **Mark Schwarzer** kept two clean sheets in his four appearances for Fulham during the month. **Adam Federici** has been in good form at Reading, however his team have been giving up a few goals to put them back in the relegation zone. **Brad Jones** (Liverpool) had some games on the bench but is now is the treatment room.

**England (Championship) –** a mixed bag for the Aussies in the Championship. **Mile Jedinak** continues to shine at Crystal Palace, having now made 32 starts this campaign. **Shane Lowry** (Millwall) has chalked up a few yellow cards this season, and even saw red during February. After a strong Christmas period, the Millwall defence has proven a little vulnerable of late. The Aussies at Middlesbrough have also not had a great month. **Scott McDonald** has resumed after a short injury break, but hasn't scored in his past four games. **Rhys Williams** has also struggled a little and recently lost his spot in the starting eleven. **Seb Usai** remains on the bench at Blackburn as does **Patrick Kisnorbo** at Ipswich Town and **Neil Kilkenny** at Bristol City.

**England (League One) –** a reasonable month for our Aussies at Oldham Athletic. **Bouzanis** was the mainstay in goal until being struck down with illness, to be replaced by fellow Australian **Alex Cisak**. Then young **Liam Jacob** took a place on the bench. **James Wesolowski** also continues to get good minutes although they continue to sit in the bottom few places on the table. **Bailey Wright** has now made 26 starts this campaign, and has scored a few goals in the New Year. With over a 1000 minutes in his 12 starts, the loan move of **Bradden Inman** to Crewe Alexandra has been productive.

**England (League Two) –** a Wembley appearance for **Curtis Good** (Bradford City) in late February, but a forgettable result unfortunately. **Jamie Young** has been very solid between the sticks for Aldershot, keeping four clean sheets over the past month and playing every minute of the season so far. **Shane Cansdell-Sheriff** (Rochdale) has been playing but in a side that has been leaking goals and sliding down the table. A similar fate for **Aaron Downes** (Torquay) who is currently out injured.

**Germany (Bundesliga) – Robbie Kruse** continues his fine season at Fortuna Dusseldorf, now having made 21 starts. **Mitch Langerak** must be one of the most trustworthy deputy's in the goalkeeping fraternity, as he patiently waits on the bench at **Borussia Dortmund** for his rare opportunities. Unfortunately **Nikita Rukavytsya** has been unsighted at Mainz since the resumption of the league.

**Germany (2.Bundesliga) –** also a little quiet for **Mathew Leckie** at FSV Frankfurt, with the shortage of minutes leading to an appearance in the reserves recently.

**Italy (Serie A) –** granted **James Troisi** is at the top level in Italy, but 22 appearances as an unused substitute can't be helping his match fitness.

**Netherlands (Eredivisie) –** with injury impacting the Utrecht Aussies, **Tommy Oar and Michael Zullo** have seen limited minutes during February. Would be good to see both getting some good game time ahead of the Oman game. The same can be said of **Jason Davidson** who was a constant on the bench during February.

**Turkey (Super Lig) – Ersan Gulum** (Besiktas) has been the most prominent Aussie in this league, both in terms of minutes played and impact. **Aziz Behich** made his debut for Bursaspor in a cup game while **Kerem Bulut** is still searching for his debut goal at relegation threatened Akhiser Belediye GS.

**Austria (Bundesliga) – James Holland** has well and truly cemented his place at league leading Austria Wien. Have now made 22 appearances over nearly 2000 minutes, great to see him take big steps in his career.

**Scotland (Premier League) –** Twenty-one year old **Dylan McGowan** has now made 14 appearances for Hearts this season. **Rab Douglas** is nearing his 250th appearance for Dundee, with young Aussie keeper **Alex Baird** sitting on the bench and watching for the last 28 of those games.

**Portugal (Primeira) - Caleb Patterson-Sewell** (Vitoria Setubal) continues to warm the bench.

**Greece (Super League) –** a positive start (4 starts and debut goal) to the loan period at Plantanias for **Apostolis Giannou.**

**Greece (Football League) – Andreas Govas** continues to make appearances off the bench for AEL Kallonis, while **Billy Konstantinidis** (Ethinikos Gazoros) continues to start and has scored his debut goal.

**Cyprus (1.Division) - Robert Stambolziev** (Olympiakos Nicosia) has been starting his club's recent fixtures.

**Malta (Premier League) - Jacob Borg** has displayed solid form since his move to Balzan Youths. He was rewarded with a call up to the Maltese national team, but did not get on the park.

**Qatar (Stars League) - Mark Bresciano** (Al Gharafa) and **Sasa Ognenovski** (Umm Salal) started all their clubs fixtures during the month of February.

**U.A.E. (UFL) –** another solid month for **Alex Brosque** (Al Ain) as he scored in both the domestic league and Asian Champions League. **Nick Carle** has amassed over a 1000 minutes at Baniyas, but the thought of returning to play with Del Piero, **Lucas Neill, Joel Griffiths and Brett Emerton** must be appealing. **Dino Djulbic** has settled in at Al Wahda, scoring a brace during one league game in February. After starting the season with a bang, **Richard Porta** (Dubai) is now goalless since early December.

**Indonesia (Super League) - Dane Milovanovic** (Pelita Bandung Raya) has started the season strongly with 3 goals in his first 8 appearances. Whereas defender **Jovo Pavlovic** has made 5 starts for Mitra Kukar.

**Indonesia (Premier League) – Mario Karlovic** (Persebaya Surabaya 1927) opened his scoring account for the new season in the first round.

**Iran (Persian Gulf Cup) –** a red card and a hamstring injury have temporary halted the good run of **Milan Susak** at Sepahan.

**Injuries:-** Unfortunately the number of long-term injuries has mounted over recent weeks. **Adam Sarota** (Utrecht) is possibly on top of that list after having a knee reconstruction. As has young striker **Kofi Danning** who was starting to find his way at CS Vise in Belgium and Liverpool youth player **Brad Smith**. **James Meredith** (Bradford City) is a hard luck story after missing a trip to Wembley courtesy of glandular fever. **Carl Valeri** (Sassuolo) has had ankle surgery and faces a few months on the sidelines. **Chris Herd (foot), Brad Jones (shoulder), Matthew Spiranovic (ankle), Milan Susak (hamstring), Adrian Madaschi (hamstring) and Aaron Downes (hamstring)** hope to return during March. A bit disturbing is the opening day absence of **Josh Kennedy (back), Matt Simon (knee), Nathan Burns (knee), and Luke Devere (knee)** from their club fixtures in Asia. Hope to see those players back in the coming weeks as well.

**Club Competitions:-**
**Europe**
**(UEFA Champions League)** A 0-3 home loss to Juventus means Celtic **(Irvine, Rogic)** face an uphill battle to stay in the competition. Better fortunes for **Mitch Langerak** (Borussia Dortmund) as his team managed a 2-2 result away from home in the first leg against Shakhtar Donetsk

**(UEFA Europa League)**
**Brad Jones** watched from the bench as Zenit eliminated Liverpool from the competition. Spurs meet Inter in the next round but Aussie boys **Luongo and Gallifuoco** are unlikely to feature.

**Asia**
**(AFC Cup) –** The 2013 tournament has now commenced with two Aussies featuring in home wins in February. Both **Michael Cvetkovski** (Yangon United) and **Andrew Barisic** (East Bengal) started for their respective teams.
**(Asian Champions League) –** Numerous Aussies involved in the group stages with starts for **Eddy Bosnar (Suwon Bluewings),Jonas Salley (Guizhou Renhe), Alex Brosque (Al Ain), and Mark Bresciano (Al Gharafa) while Alex Wilkinson (Jeonbuk Motors)** watched from the bench.

**North America**
**(CONCACAF Champions League)** – No fixtures in February, **Seattle Sounders (Andy Rose)** remain in the competition.

**Reserves and Youth:-**
**NextGen – Jordan Lyden** (Aston Villa) started again as his team progressed to the quarter-finals. Liverpool **(Brad Smith)** were knocked out.

**U21's –** the pipeline remains strong at this level. Mentioning a few players that have made good recent progress at this level; **Dean Gardikiotis (Blackpool), Aaron Lennox (QPR), Peter Skapetis (QPR), Ryan Edwards (Reading), Massimo Luongo (Spurs) and Giancarlo Gallifuoco (Spurs). In Scotland, Jackson Irvine (Celtic)** has made his comeback after a long injury break. Down in Italy and the Primavera, **Chris Oikonomidis (Atalanta) and Paul Katsetis** (Catania) consistently appear for their clubs while in Holland, **Travis Cooper** (VVV Venlo) has been starting and scoring of late for the youth team.

**Youth –** the FA Youth Cup final was played during February with Leicester City having both **Rob Paratore** (captain) and **Callum Elder** taking the field. **Peter Makrillos (Stoke City), Thomas Beadling (Sunderland) and Taylor Tombides (West Ham)**all continue to make good progress in England. Finally an update on 14 year old **Reno Piscopo**, who continues to score goals for Inter Milan's Giovanissimi Nazionale team.

**International level:-** A friendly against Romania was the only run out for the Socceroos during February. While the result didn't go in our favour, a lot of positives in terms of the squad. Another impressive game in midfield by **James Holland,** the return of **Michael Zullo** to left back, and the continuing emergence of **Robert Cornthwaite** at centre back. **Federici, Ryan McGowan and Rhys Williams** all came off the bench, they represent the future of the Australian defence over coming years. We have the all-important WC qualifier against Oman during March with a good pool of players at Holger's disposal.

**Socceroo (capped) of the month – playing in the Championship, Mile Jedinak** has embraced the captain's armband at Crystal Palace. He had a nasty face injury, but shrugged that off and returned to the pitch quickly. His presence in midfield now sees his team challenging for automatic promotion and numerous other clubs monitoring the progress of the 28 year old.
*January – Federici*
Under (uncapped) the radar – bound to be a controversial selection, but **Ersan Gulum** has certainly re-established himself at Turkish powerhouse Besiktas after a knee reconstruction. He is back in the starting eleven, scored during the month, and has been at the heart of a defence that went undefeated in February. We know he got called up for Turkey, but **Rhys Williams** also flirted with Wales before representing the green and gold.
*January – Bouzanis*
**Young player (U21) of the month** - 17 year old **Robert Paratore** has had a tremedorous month at Leicester City. Spending the month playing both U18's and coming off the bench for the U21's, he recently had the honour of captaining the U18's in the FA Youth Cup final. After scoring the opening Leicester City goal, the game went to extra time before Hull City prevailed.
*January – Wright*

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VICTORIA'S LEADER IN TEAM WEAR

# Fifty Years ago, Hellas and Polonia win Ampol Cup

## Blast From The Past

By Roy Hay

**A weekend with no A-League games in Melbourne leaves a gap in my usual activities. I know that Melbourne Heart are playing on Labour Day but the absence of a game on the usual Friday to Sunday schedule led me to wonder what was happening fifty years ago in the Victorian game. This was only the second year when the Victorian Soccer Federation was in charge of the game, having replaced the Victorian Amateur Soccer Football Association (VASFA) in 1962. The National Soccer League was still 15 years away and the game was very much state based with only occasional international matches or inter-state matches and carnivals to bring the football communities together at an Australian level.**

In those days the league season did not begin until April, so the clubs in all the states were engaged in pre-season competitions often for cups sponsored by the Ampol Petroleum Company. So it was in Victoria and the weekends of the 2 and 9 March 1963 saw two impressive semi-finals.

On Saturday, 2 March 1963, South Melbourne Hellas beat Ringwood Wilhelmina, the leading Dutch supported club, by three goals to nil before an estimated 10,000 fans at the South Melbourne Cricket Ground.

The Hellas team was made up very largely of recent migrants or players of Greek heritage, but there were two important exceptions in the 1963 side—Australian born Olympian Ted Smith and another superstar of the 1960s, Johnny Bedford. George Papadopoulos scored twice for Hellas and Adonni Hatzileftheriou got the other. Among the stars of that era were Takis Xanthopoulos, Boulis Kambouropoulos and John Margaritis, all of whom were to be highly influential on and off the field after they retired from playing. Margaritis is probably better known as a coach but he was a brilliant player.

Their opposition were no mugs. Wilhelmina started in 1954 and came rushing up through the leagues and was State League champion in 1959. It was a regular in the top reaches of the State League through the 1960s with some superb players including Sjel (Mike) de Bruyckere and Dick van Alphen. But on this occasion it was no match for Hellas.

The following week Maribyrnong-Polonia beat George Cross by the same score—three-nil. Polonia's goals were scored by Eddie Zientara, Vic Jancyk and Mike Mroczkowski. Polonia also had a startling rise following its foundation in 1951 and was State League champion in 1960 and 1961. Maltese star Lolly Vella played for Polonia in 1963 but the bulk of the team were of Polish extraction including two Victorian and Australian representatives, Vic Janczyk and Mike Jurecki. George Cross had strong Maltese backing but a more mixed playing staff including Don Hodgson, Tommy Anderson, Marshall Gibb and Archie Campbell. Players of Maltese heritage included Eddie Azzoparki, Eddie Sacco, Fred Falzon, Vince Muscat and Tony Cassar. From 1959 to 1965 George Cross only once failed to finish in the top three in the State League though it did not win the competition till 1977.

Polonia won the Ampol Cup final by a goal to nil on 23 March in front of an estimated 17,000 at the South Melbourne Cricket Ground. Mike Mroczkowski scored the only in goal in extra-time. The referee was the legendary Luigi Cadelli.

When the League did get under way JUST came out on top by two points from Polonia and six from George Cross. JUST had Rale Rasic, Verko Mladenovic, Billy Rice, Tommy Stankovic and Frank Micic in its title winning squad. JUST also won the Dockerty Cup beating Polonia four-two in the final, despite having Rasic sent off. In 1963 there was also a Federation Cup for the teams from the lower divisions and this was won by Coburg United which beat Makedonia in the final by four goals to two at Olympic Park on Sunday 6 October.

There were two national competitions in 1963. The first, the Australia Cup for club teams was won by Slavia who beat Polonia in an all-Victorian final, while the inter-state carnival was played over two seasons, 1963 and 1964 and it was won by New South Wales.

Referee Luigi Cadelli. From Soccer News, appeared several times in the 1960s.

THE EXPERTS SAY :—
POLONIA !

Soccer News asked the experts to name the winner of the Ampol Cup final for this Saturday — and here it is . . . POLONIA !

Four experts tip Polonia and one goes for South Melbourne-Hellas.

Morrie Buckner, Sun and Soccer News writer, says: "This is difficult, but I'll stick my neck out and go for Polonia." (See Morrie's preview, Page 3).

Age and GTV Soccer commentator Alex Barr sums up Polonia's chances in one word: PUTKOWSKI!

And Alex adds: "Polonia are temperamentally more stable. They play an orthodox system and have a more penetrating forward line.

Bill Fleming, of The Herald, says: "Polonia — they're the most improved team in Victoria today.

"Polonia have made no mistakes by putting overseas stars straight into the night games. They have not changed their winning combination."

Stan Stacey, of The Globe: "Polonia! They're powerful, fast and have the No. 1 goalie."

John Pierce, of The Truth: "Hellas! Polonia have only six players around whom their game centres. Hellas have a full complement of top players."

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He saved the Cross

● The flying fist of George Cross goalie Norm Hoban clears the ball out of danger against Wilhelmina last week. Hoban is keeping over team-mate Vince Muscat. Sid Steele is the Wilhelmina player. See story, Page 2.

Ampol chief for final

Mr W. G. Walkley, Australian Soccer Federation president, will receive a big welcome when he arrives in Melbourne on Saturday for the Ampol Cup Final.

He will be met at Essendon Airport at 11.20 a.m., and taken by officials to Soccer House, St. Kilda, where he will meet members of the Press, radio and TV.

At 1 p.m. he will have lunch at Menzies Hotel, where he'll stay for the weekend.

At 5.30 p.m., Mr Theo Marmaras, chairman of the Australian and Victorian Federation, will entertain Mr Walkley at a private dinner.

At 7.45 p.m. he will arrive at South Melbourne Cricket Ground to see the North of the Yarra v. South of the Yarra junior curtain raiser, and will later present trophies and medallions to the teams.

Then, followed by a fanfare of trumpets, Mr Walkley will be introduced to the Cup Final teams—Polonia and Hellas.

WEMBLEY STYLE

Spectators this year will see a typical Wembley Cup Final presentation when Mr Walkley meets the Ampol Cup winners after the final.

He will present the Cup to the captain of the winning side from the official enclosure in the stand while TV cameras whirr and Press photographers' bulbs flash.

Front page of Soccer News, 21 March 1963.

Eddie Sacco and John Bedford.
Source: Laurie Schwab collection. Deakin University Library.

A muddy Vic Janczyk of Polonia.
Source: Laurie Schwab collection. Deakin University Library.

John Margaritis of Hellas on the run. Source: Laurie Schwab collection. Deakin University Library.

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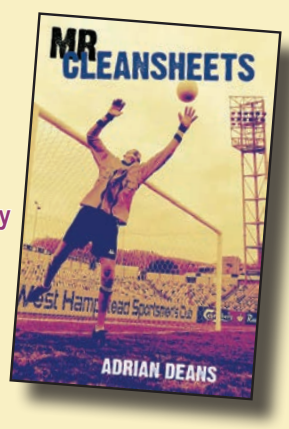

Report By Damian Briggs

# Pascoe Vale FC still leading the way after Rd 20

**The Nike V-League moved into round 20 on Sunday with Pascoe Vale FC hold a 3 point lead over Vic Vipers and a 4 point lead over Hume FC. The top 3 clubs all had victories so with 2 round remaining Pascoe Vale is in the box seat to clinch back to back titles. While at the other end of the table Brighton FC look set for the drop to the State League, while Essendon, Prahran and Balwyn look set for the relegation play off battles**

Duke Duva of CF Brunswick scores against FC Balwyn .
Photo: DAMIAN BRIGGS

Pascoe Vale's Japanese star Takuya Umeda celebrates his second goal against Fitzroy FC.
Photo: DAMIAN BRIGGS

FC Essendons Omar Mohammed celebrates his second goal with teammate Joaquin Jiminez. Photo: DAMIAN BRIGGS

Hume FC goal keeper Fethi Goran saves a shot on goal in the derby against Moreland FC. Photo: DAMIAN BRIGGS

### Essendon outplay Brighton

FC Essendon continued its fine performance from last week against Pascoe Vale with a comfortable 7-1 victory over bottom placed Brighton FC. Essendon was lead well by player/manager Alex Cobo and his side raced out to an early lead and never looked in any danger of not getting the points. Joaquin Jiminez and Omar Mohammed both scored twice for Essendon, and Essendon could have scored a few more goals late on but for some poor finishing. Brighton FC will need to win its finally two matches to avoid automatic relegation.

**FC Essendon 7** *(J. Jiminez 2, O. Mohammed 2, G. Candelo, A. Osorio, A. Cobo) def.*
**Brighton FC 1** *(N. Khoshaba)*

### Hume win derby in fine style

Hume FC was untouchable as they beat arch rivals Moreland FC 7-2 to keep the pressure on Pascoe Vale and Vic Vipers at the top of the ladder. Nike V-League leading scorer Vadim Mazurskiy got a double for Hume as did team mate George Harrison and to rub salt into the wounds manager Amin Keddad scored off the bench late on to wrap up the points for Hume FC. Moreland were not really in the contest and looked to be chasing shadows for most of the game. Hume will need to win its last 2 games and hope that Pascoe Vale and Vipers both slip up if they are to win their first title.

**Hume FC 7** *(V. Mazurskiy 2, G. Harrison 2, S. Cicek, R. Culculoglu, A. Keddad) def.*
**Moreland FC 2** *(B. Koca, S. Akyol)*

### Vipers ready to pounce

Vic Vipers continued to keep the pressure on Nike V-League leaders Pascoe Vale FC with a 7-3 victory over FC Prahran. Vipers have been undermanned at times this season and have gone under the radar, their season has been building nicely and they are ready to pounce on any Pascoe Vale mistake. Adam Cooper was the star against Prahran with a Hat-Trick and 2 assists to ensure his side got the 3 points. FC Prahran are set for the relegation playoffs

**Vic Vipers FC 7** *(A. Cooper 3, M. Avram 2, H. Tran, Jas. Barrientos) def.* **FC Prahran 3** *(R. Frisina 2, C. Mogoai)*

### Ashburton too good for Metro

A solid team performance from Gui Costa's Ashburton FC sees them jump Metropolitan and move to 4 place on the ladder with a 6-2 result. With 6 of the 10 players in the Ashburton side getting on the score sheet was a real indication of the team work on display during the match as Metro had no answers for the crisp passing and movement of the Ashburton side.

**Ashburton FC 6** *(A. Farina, J. Afonseca, M. Alghorabi, L. Kruel, M. Rocca, L. De Paris) def.* **Metropolitan FC 2** *(D. Redzepovic, A. Redzepovic)*

### Pasoce Vale leading the race to title

Pascoe Vale FC bounced back from the surprise draw with FC Essendon last week to take the points 6-2 over Fitzroy FC. Taka Umeda was the star for Pascoe Vale his two classy finishes and assist helped ensure that Pascoe Vale remain in the box seat for back to back titles. Fitzroy FC did look dangerous at times but don't have the depth on the bench to compete with the likes of Pascoe Vale.

**Pascoe Vale FC 6** *(S. Soufi 2, T. Umeda 2, A. Caro, B. Polatti) def.* **Fitzroy FC 2** *(V. Zoric, T. Fitzpatrick)*

### Brunswick outlast Balwyn

Duke Duva stars as CF Brunswick takes the points over FC Balwyn. Duva scored a double and caused the Balwyn defence headaches every time he got on the ball. Brunswick moved the ball nicely and the energy of Daniel Slovacek ensured that any turnovers were won back quickly. FC Balwyn at times did play some tidy futsal and were unlucky not to score a few more goals. FC Balwyn look set for the relegation playoffs and maybe saving themselves as a win will see them keep their Nike V-League status for the 2013 season.

**CF Brunswick 5** *(D. Duva 2, D. Slovacek, H. Avdic, U. Cicek (OG)) def.* **FC Balwyn 1** *(D. Filonzi)*

## V-League Standings

| | P | W | D | L | GF | GA | GD | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 Pascoe Vale FC | 20 | 16 | 3 | 1 | 138 | 70 | +68 | 51 |
| 2 Vic Vipers FC | 20 | 15 | 3 | 2 | 106 | 62 | +44 | 48 |
| 3 Hume FC | 20 | 15 | 2 | 3 | 177 | 59 | +118 | 47 |
| 4 Ashburton FC | 20 | 13 | 2 | 5 | 100 | 56 | +44 | 41 |
| 5 Metropolitan FC | 20 | 13 | 0 | 7 | 145 | 99 | +46 | 39 |
| 6 Moreland FC | 20 | 11 | 0 | 9 | 113 | 137 | -24 | 33 |
| 7 Fitzroy FC | 20 | 8 | 1 | 11 | 82 | 95 | -13 | 25 |
| 8 CF Brunswick | 20 | 8 | 0 | 12 | 85 | 94 | -9 | 24 |
| 9 FC Essendon | 20 | 5 | 1 | 14 | 71 | 133 | -62 | 16 |
| 10 FC Prahran | 20 | 4 | 1 | 15 | 93 | 148 | -55 | 13 |
| 11 FC Balwyn | 20 | 3 | 1 | 16 | 80 | 175 | -95 | 10 |
| 12 Brighton FC | 20 | 2 | 0 | 18 | 51 | 112 | -61 | 6 |

## Round 20 Clashes Sunday March 3

- CF Brunswick 5-1 FC Balwy
- FC Essendon 7-1 Brighton FC
- Fitzroy FC 2-6 Pascoe Vale FC
- Metropolitan FC 2-6 Ashburton FC
- FC Prahran 3-7 Vic Vipers FC
- Hume FC 7-0 Moreland FC

## Round 21 Clashes Sunday March 10

- 3:00 pm Brighton VS Fitzroy FC
- 4.00 pm Vic Vipers FC VS Hume FC
- 5.00 pm Pascoe Vale FC VS Metropolitan FC
- 6.00pm Ashburton FC VS Moreland FC
- 7.00 pm CF Brunswick VS FC Prahran
- 8.00pm FC Essendon VS FC Balwyn

## Top Goal Scorers

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 Vadim Mazurskiy - Hume FC | 51 |
| 2 Alija Redzepovic - Metropolitan FC | 41 |
| 3 Burukhan Koca - Moreland FC | 40 |
| 4 Juso Julardzija - Metropolitan FC | 35 |
| 5 Sofiane Soufi - Pascoe Vale FC | 31 |

The Futbol Town Show every Tuesday 6.30pm on C31 and C44Digital
FUTSAL OZ

# Darren Davies delighted with NYL Championship

By Daniel Quinn

**The Melbourne Victory were crowned National Youth League Champions for the first on Tuesday afternoon and Victory coach Darren Davies is absolutely delighted especially for his boys that have been through the ups and downs after a horror of a season last year.**

FFA confirmed on Tuesday that the NYL Decider, between the first-placed Victory and the second-placed Central Coast Mariners, wouldn't be played out after two postponements. FFA decided that the game would be recorded as a nil-all draw and with the two sides locked on 37 points, the Victory were crowned 2012/13 Champions on goal-difference.

Davies was ecstatic for his boys that were promoted to the senior side, but also the majority of the squad who had to go through the previous season where the Victory finished bottom with just four wins after starting the season with eight straight losses.

"I think to be honest with you I'm more pleased and delighted that the fact we have five players who have played first-team appearances this year, made their debuts in the first-team. That for me is ultimately what I am about and what gives me the most pleasure.

"But obviously it's nice to cap it off and more than anything I'm actually over the moon for the boys themselves.

"We've gone through a lot since I arrived and Vaughan Coveny (assistant coach) and Dean Anastasiadis (goalkeeping coach) eighteen months ago, it's been a long journey and they've had to put up with a lot and last year when we were losing games they stuck to their principles, they stuck to they way we were trying to do.

Victory Youth had plenty to smile about in their 7-0 demolition of Perth Glory back in Round 12, and now have even more to celebrate after being awarded the NYL title. Players (from left) are Jimmy Jeggo, Mathew Foschini, Sam Gallagher and Kwabena Boahene.Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

"But the most pleasing point is that I'm happy for those boys who have been through a lot in the last eighteen months. "

The were many factors that Davies believed helped the Victory win their first NYL title, including the principles which the boys stuck to, the recruitment of quality youngsters like Connor Pain and Andrew Nabbout. But probably the most important factor was Ange Postecoglou's influence in the youth side and the Board of Directors' decision to bring the NYL set-up in-house away from Football Federation Victoria (FFV).

"The first thing is that we stuck to our principles last year and we worked with the boys over the last eighteen months in the same way, trying to play out of the back and passing the ball and they've got better as time has gone on and they've got older.

"The second thing obviously is our recruitment was good this year. We picked up some very, very good young players that weren't with us last year and that was obviously a major plus for us, and obviously Connor (Pain) and Andrew (Nabbout) have gone on and they've been doing exceptionally well in the first-team which is pleasing, probably that is the second contributing factor.

"Ultimately the third and final one is with the club. The Chairman (Anthony Di Pietro) and the Board of Directors took the decision to bring the National Youth League in-house this year, and obviously with the appointment of Ange as Head Coach, he's brought a real togetherness within this club of youth team and first-team and he's given us a direction to go with and obviously the club is now as one and the youth team and first-team staff are as one and we all help each other out and it's a real togetherness and obviously Ange has given us that direction and that drive and ultimately rewarded the young players with first-team debuts and contracts.

"Probably all three combined has resulted in it being a successful season for the Youth League."

The Welshman also thanked the support from Postecoglou and the first-team coaching staff, the Chairman Anthony Di Pietro, the Board of Directors and his own coaching staff, which included former All Whites striker Vaughan Coveny and one-time Socceroo goalkeeper Dean Anastasiadis.

"The Chairman and Board of Directors are always seen at games as well, the first-team staff are always there to support the boys at games and obviously the Head Coach himself, he's been a massive influence on this youth team this year and myself personally helping me develop as a coach as well.

"So obviously I'm very grateful for his help with the team and personally helping me develop as a coach as well, and that goes for all the first-team coaching staff.

"But also I think I have to pay a big thank you to Vaughan Coveny and Dean Anastasiadis as well as the boys that have been with me for all the help and hard work in helping me settle in Victoria, but also helping me on the pitch to develop what we're trying to do here at the Victory."

## NYL Final Standings

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | D | P |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 Melbourne Victory | 17 | 12 | 0 | 5 | 57 | 20 | 37 | 36 |
| 2 CC Mariners | 17 | 12 | 0 | 5 | 38 | 27 | 11 | 36 |
| 3 Newcastle Jets | 18 | 10 | 1 | 7 | 52 | 36 | 16 | 31 |
| 4 Brisbane Roar | 18 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 39 | 34 | 5 | 30 |
| 5 Perth Glory | 18 | 8 | 1 | 9 | 45 | 45 | 0 | 25 |
| 6 Melbourne Heart | 18 | 8 | 1 | 9 | 31 | 34 | -3 | 25 |
| 7 WS Wanderers | 18 | 7 | 4 | 7 | 29 | 39 | -10 | 25 |
| 8 Adelaide United | 18 | 6 | 4 | 8 | 35 | 42 | -7 | 22 |
| 9 Sydney FC | 18 | 6 | 3 | 9 | 41 | 46 | -5 | 21 |
| 10 AIS | 18 | 2 | 1 | 14 | 24 | 68 | -44 | 7 |

*Brisbane Roar docked three points for rule breaches.

**Melbourne Victory crowned National Youth League 2012/13 Champions following the cancellation of their Round 18 match against Central Coast Mariners. After both sides finished the season equal on 37 points, Melbourne Victory's goal difference of positive 37 compared to Central Coast's positive 11 saw the Melbourne team retain top spot on the NYL ladder.

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

**Manchester United 1 Real Madrid 2 (agg. 2-3)**

**Real Madrid booked their Champions League quarter-final place with a dramatic 2-1 win over Manchester United at Old Trafford on Tuesday.**

With the tie finely balanced at 1-1 following the first leg in Spain, United struck first through an own-goal by Sergio Ramos early in the second half.

But the game turned on its head after Nani was sent off in the 56th minute for a high boot in a challenge with Alvaro Arbeloa. The United winger appeared to be challenging for the ball and certainly meant no harm to Arbeloa, but the consequence of his dismissal was that the home side's gameplan, which had worked so well to that point, was ruined.

Real Madrid used their man advantage and sealed the aggregate victory with two goals in three minutes. Substitute Luka Modric equalised with a stunning strike from 25 yards before Cristiano Ronaldo slid in at the far post to break the hearts of supporters who gave him a hero's reception before kick-off.

The result completes a wonderful week for the Spanish giants following two wins over bitter rivals Barcelona.

The turning point, however, came in the 56th minute when Nani was shown a straight red card by Turkish referee Cuneyt Cakir for a high foot in a 50-50 challenge with Arbeloa. The decision left Ferguson and the United players fuming with the officials.

Real coach Jose Mourinho responded to the man advantage by bringing on Modric for Arbeloa and the former Tottenham midfielder levelled the score in the 66th minute. After picking the ball up 30 yards from goal, Modric breezed past Tom Cleverley and struck a thunderous effort in off the post from 25 yards.

Three minutes later, Real took the lead for the first time in the tie. Higuain fizzed a low cross along the six-yard box and Ronaldo used all of his predatory instincts to slide in at the far post.

United swarmed forward but their task to score two goals with a man down always seemed unlikely, Real holding firm to progress to the last eight.

**Borussia Dortmund 3 Shakhtar Donetsk 0 (agg. 5-2)**

**Borussia Dortmund strolled into the Champions League quarter-finals after a 3-0 victory over Shakhtar Donetsk at Signal Iduna Park.**

The two sides had played out a tense 2-2 draw in Ukraine three weeks ago, but the Germans took the lead in the return leg through Felipe Santana on the half-hour mark, with Mario Goetze doubling the lead soon after.

Shakhtar rallied after the break, but all hopes of a comeback were killed off when Jakub Blaszczykowski made it 3-0.

**PSG 1 Valencia 1 (agg. 3-2)**

**Paris Saint-Germain were made to work hard for a 1-1 draw against Valencia to seal their Champions League quarter-final spot on Wednesday.**

In what was an affair lacking in quality and excitement for long periods at Parc des Princes, the Spaniards grabbed the lead thanks to a well-taken strike from Jonas early in the second half.

PSG, who were missing suspended pair Marco Verratti and Zlatan Ibrahimovic, battled back quickly and Ezequiel Lavezzi scrambled them level. From the outset it was clear that the home side were in an indecisive mood, and this allowed Valencia to set the tempo for much of the game.

**Juventus 2 Celtic 0 (agg. 5-0)**

**Juventus cruised into the quarter-finals of the Champions League with a comfortable 2-0 win over Celtic at Juventus Stadium on Wednesday.**

With a 3-0 advantage from the first leg, Antonio Conte's men proved devastating on the counterattack as goals from Alessandro Matri and Fabio Quagliarella either side of the break ensured a place in the last eight.

Celtic are now winless in 10 visits to Italy.

Still to come ....
*Ties to be played*
*Weds 13/3/13*
*Thu/14/3/13*

Bayern Munich (3-1) Arsenal

Malaga (0-1) Porto

Galatasaray (1-1) Schalke

Barcelona (0-2) AC Milan

# PSG character pleases Ancelotti

**Paris Saint-Germain coach Carlo Ancelotti was relieved to progress to the Champions League last eight after a gritty 1-1 draw with Valencia.**

The Parc des Princes stalemate sent Ancelotti's side through to the quarter-finals of the competition after they had claimed a 2-1 victory in the first leg of the tie in Spain last month.

Jonas had levelled the tie for the visitors with a second-half strike, before Ezequiel Lavezzi restored parity minutes later, as an under-performing French outfit limped into the quarter-finals for the first time since 1994-95.

While accepting PSG were not at the best, Ancelotti praised his side for reaching the latter stages of the competition.

"It was very hard, a very difficult game. They (Valencia) played really well. We were not at our best in the first half," the 53-year-old told Sky Sports.

"After we conceded the goal, we did better. It's a very important result for the club, to reach the quarter-finals after 18 years is very important.

"The goal we conceded woke us up. We were controlled too much in the first half. It's very difficult for us to win (the Champions League), but it's our aim to do our best.

"At the start, everyone said the team didn't know what they were going to do, but we won the group, won the last 16, and we hope to do well in the quarter-final."

Midfielder Blaise Matuidi echoed his coach's words, but insisted that the team can be proud of their achievement and vowed to fight to reach the semi-finals.

"It's great but it's true that we fought like dogs for that. We have done something great and now anything can happen," the 25-year-old told reporters after the match.

"We have done something great, and now anything can happen. We are still in three competitions (the Champions League, Ligue 1 and Coupe de France), which many people tend to forget. We showed we're in the mix. We will fight until the end."

Santo Sam and Ed

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# Venezuela's next move

Latin Wrap

By Francis Fields

**Following the confirmation earlier this week of the death of leader Hugo Chávez, condolences have flooded Venezuela from all over the world.**

Current senior national team coach César Farías expressed his condolences following Chávez's death with a note to his close family and friends.

Publishing on his Twitter account, the national team boss spoke of his candid time speaking about how to lift the profile of football in the country, history, and other issues of national interest saying, "I met our leader only briefly on a couple of occasions and he was a man of honesty. It is a very sad loss".

During Wednesday's Copa Libertadores matches involved Venezuelan sides, Caracas played Brazil's Gremio whilst Paraguay's Olimpia played Deportivo Lara and both games did not perform a minute's silence for the death of the leader, a strict order made by the continent's governing body CONMEBOL.

However there is a key question to the rise of football in the country that must ask.

The Bolivarian visionary brought along changes during his time in power lifting the profile of football where the dominance of baseball is very strong. Where is Venezuela heading?

What changes and improvements occurred during Chávez's almost-dictatorial tenure?

In fact, Venezuela remains the only South American federation not to be represented at a senior FIFA World Cup to date. Its under-20 national team qualified for Egypt in 2009 for what was a massive and historic achievement.

That under-20 select went on to reach the second round, defeating the always-strong Nigeria in the group stage eventually losing to the United Arab Emirates.

In that tournament, the squad contained stalwart Salomón Rondon whom has been proudly flying the flag abroad with Rubin Kazan in the Russian Premier League. Another name, Juan Arango is also doing wonders in the Bundesliga with Borussia Moenchengaldbach.

It is a misguided judgment to put Venezuela as a weak football nation these days. The country seems to continue swimming against a strong current, plagued with social problems of inequity and uncertainty.

After a fourth-place showing in the 2011 Copa América held in Argentina, the nation felt a strong sense unity despite its long-list of welfare, education and social inclusion issues. The "vinotinto" brought together a people bitter-

Venezuela's late leader Hugo Chávez seen here at the Miraflores Palace in Caracas hosting national team boss César Farías.

Mexico defeats the USA 3-1 in the U20 CONCACAF final.

Copa Libertadores action from Universidad Chile's 2-1 win over Argentina's Newell's Old Boys

ing over hostile divisions for decades in a game so worldly known that can endeavour an influence of improvement, inspiration and unity.

At domestic club level, Caracas FC remains the strong and most popular club with eleven first division titles to date.

Chávez personally did not follow football. He admitted in public television that his affections in sport lied elsewhere, presumably with baseball. Since 1999 when assuming power, football was a very powerful vehicle to entice the Venezuelan people.

During his mandate, there was even a stadium named after him in Libya, a sign of his close alignment to leader Muammar Gaddhafi. Indeed it was a cold attitude by Chávez to lightly support football more out of political convenience than self-interest, occasionally visiting Caracas FC home matches.

It was in 2007 however when Chávez began his romance with the game, when Venezuela hosted the Copa América. His friendship with Diego Maradona became ever-more public. Despite turmoil during the tournament of alleged bribes in match tickets allocated to political friends and scenes of repression to journalist in their freedom of speech.

The "vinotinto" as the Venezuela side is affectionately became much more respected defeating Peru in the tournament, in front of their home crowd and gaining competitive results against Argentina, Uruguay and Colombia to name a few. It was the beginning of a new era, of something new.

And this brand of new football many believed was owed to Chávez. Even in FIFA's World rankings, Venezuela climbed 65 places to 45.

Chávez and Maradona remained public friends with Cuban leader Fidel Castro as their common denominator whilst the friendship with national team boss César Farías was brief, it was very much welcomed by the Venezuelan public.

In an interesting scene from filmmaker Emir Kusturica's "Diez", a documentary on Maradona, both the Argentine and Chávez travel together on an international train carrier towards the coastal city of Mar del Plata expressing their views on football of course, and politics.

On a slightly related note, it was a shame that the untimely death of Argentine football coach José Omar Pastoriza - a name synonymous to the growth of Venezuelan football,

Pastoriza in some ways was Chávez in revolutionising the game much to the contagious effect of the poor, those looking for an opportunity through sport.

When football began competitively in 1938, it was in 1952 that the Venezuelan Federation was formally admitted into FIFA.

There are words however that will be forever remembered for changing the mentality of Venezuelans for the way they played and felt for the game.

"Pastoriza brought us technique, discipline, strategies and formed a select group of coaches who have been orientated, mentored and live the game because of his work. The messages and legacy he left for our game is invaluable and the results show for itself in our country".

Those were the words from national team boss, César Farías who remains focused on qualifying for next year's World Cup in Brazil assuring it is a very long road yet to go and a difficult one.

"It is without a doubt, the best level of international competition going round. And there are only four spots for direct passage. It is like a mini-World Cup."

The Mourinho-look-a-like showed no fear in admitting he has chances for his national side to qualify, further cementing his objective and the task at hand.

"A World Cup qualification campaign is a long process, where every action is accounted for, one after the other. For example, our coaching staff can ratify why we needed to wide our player base. Why we need to be working more hours because we need more hours of work. Football at the highest level requires full-time dedication. These were two main issues my staff presented to the Federation at the beginning of this project so we could be professionally employed. More importantly, we are coaches appointed to execute ideas, not only to project them", spoke Farías candidly to the media before his successful Copa América campaign.

It is exactly the long-term vision that Venezuela needs to look ahead and finally breaking the continental voodoo to ultimately give the game one real boost and reap more benefits for everybody involved.

## CONCACAF Champions League: Houston 1 Santos 0

**Brad Davis grabbed a late winner as Houston won the opening leg of their CONCACAF Champions League quarter-final 1-0 over Santos Laguna.**

Houston grabbed the game's only goal just before stoppage time. Corey Ashe surged down the left flank, dishing inside to Davis.

The USA international gave a flick of his left foot and flashed a shot across Oswaldo Sanchez's net and into the far corner.

The one-goal cushion preserves Houston's undefeated record at BBVA Compass Stadium and could be vital if the Dynamo are to escape from the March 13 second leg with a berth in the semi-finals.

## Copa Libertadores wrap: Universidad Chile go top

**Universidad Chile have taken the upper hand in Copa Libertadores Group 7 thanks to a 2-1 away win over Argentine side Newell's Old Boys.**

A goal from Guillermo Marino and a Charles Aranguiz penalty gave the Chilean team a 2-0 lead inside 17 minutes at the Estadio Marcelo Alberto Bielsa on Tuesday, and although Ignacio Scocco pulled one back for the home side in first-half stoppage time, there would be no equaliser.

The result lifted Universidad into top spot in Group 7 on six points, with the pool's other two sides - Paraguayan club Olimpia and Venezuelan side Deportivo Lara - playing out a 2-2 draw in Asuncion.

A Fredy Bareiro brace had the home side in control early in the second half, but Marlon Fernandez halved the deficit in the 71st minute and when Jose Torrealba netted five minutes from the end, Deportivo had done enough to escape with a point.

Both Olimpia and Deportivo are locked on four points, with Newell's Old Boys in fourth place on three points.

In other results, Brazilians Gremio moved top of Group 8 on goal difference courtesy of a crushing 4-1 win at home over Venezuela's Caracas.

Hernan Barcos and Werley put Gremio two goals up at half-time, and a second-half brace from Ze Roberto sealed the result and rendered Andres Sanchez's goal on the hour mark no more than a consolation.

Colombian club Millonarios posted their first win in Group 5 thanks to a 2-1 home triumph over Bolivians San Jose, an 81st-minute winner from Wason Renteria proving the difference between the two sides.

The group's top two teams, Tijuana and Corinthians, meet in Mexico on Wednesday.

And in Group 4, Ecuadorian club Emelec moved level with the leaders on six points thanks to a 2-1 win over Chile's Deportes Iquique.

## CONCACAF U20: Mexico 3 United States 1

**Julio Gomez produced a stunning acrobatic effort to see Mexico home 3-1 against the United States in the CONCACAF U20 final.**

Mexico's 2011 Under-17 World Cup hero was at it again as he broke the deadlock in the 100th minute with a spectacular side volley.

The 18-year-old Pachuca forward came on as a substitute and made it 2-1 before Jorge Espericueta made sure of Mexico's 12th championship with a penalty seven minutes from the end of extra-time.

Jesus Corona opened the scoring for Mexico on four minutes before Benji Joya levelled the scores 10 minutes in.

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## London Calling

By Samuel Collins

# Treble dream ends as United 'robbed'

Sir Alex is up in arms after Nani's dismissal and the Treble soon starts to slip away.

**José Mourinho rose from his bench with a minute on the clock remaining at Old Trafford. The Portuguese marched down the steps, across his technical area and over to Sir Alex Ferguson. A brief handshake exchanged, and then a stroll down the touchline and into the tunnel. The game was already won. Real Madrid had done their job. Yet, so too had Manchester United. The theory around the theatre of dreams was that referee Cüneyt Çakir hadn't.**

The Turk's decision to send Nani off just before the hour-mark on Tuesday night was the talking point. Twenty-four hours earlier, Mourinho was asked how this tie would be decided; "That is the one million dollar question" he responded. It was a shame, then, that with all the brilliant artists on show, a red card would be so influential on the outcome of this second leg. Leading 1-0 (2-1 on aggregate) at the time, Ferguson's side looked competent, solid, in control - even if Real had 64% possession by that time. Nani's foul on right-back Alvaro Arbeloa was dangerous play, no doubt. A dangled leg into the Spaniard's waist. "A yellow card" was how English television channel ITV saw the incident. That too was enough punishment according to Madrid daily Marca. United first-team coach René Meulensteen thought "it wasn't even a yellow", while TV pundit Roy Keane insisted a red "was the right decision". Mourinho, probably more relevantly, simply uttered "He (Ferguson) must feel like I did when Pepe was sent off." The 50-year old referring to a Champions League tie against Barcelona two years back.

Nothing like a great footballing debate. But Ferguson didn't have time for that. The Scot sent Mike Pheelan to the post-match press conference instead. "He is too distraught" revealed the United assistant. "It was an amazing decision. It was a great performance marred by one decision." Though, Real could have pointed to a Rafael handball, or Gonzalo Higuain's incorrectly disallowed strike. Despite this victory on the back of successive wins against Barcelona, all in the space of a week, Mourinho was underwhelmed with his side. "I expected more from my team," he told the Spanish media.

The 'Special One' did acknowledge the impact of substitute Luka Modric, though. The £30m summer signing had an excellent half-an-hour on the field, scoring and adding "dynamism and creativity" according to Mourinho. After just 14 La Liga starts this season, forced to sit and watch midfielders Xabi Alonso and Sami Khedira in his position for so long, Tuesday might have been the making of the Croatian playmaker at Real Madrid. "I've always thought he was a great player, he made the difference." Ironically, the former Tottenham player is someone United fought to sign for many years, as was Raphael Varane, Real's exceptional young centre-back, who denied United on many occasions throughout the tie. It would be harsh to suggest had Ferguson signed both in previous years, United's treble dream wouldn't have ended this week, but it's worth a thought.

The Daily Mail blasted that Fergie's team were 'robbed', while The Mirror led with 'wronged'. Mourinho even consoled the opposition; "The best team lost." But it all counted for nothing. United were out. For the Premier League leaders, it's Chelsea in the FA Cup quarter-final on Sunday - worryingly for Rafael Benitez's side, there are few scarier clubs to face than a Manchester United side with the feeling the world is against them.

Cristiano Ronaldo might have scored in both legs to help knock his former employers out, but seeing the superstar back at Old Trafford was something the home fans could remember with fondness. He received the most humongous of receptions, too. After his far-post tap-in had put this tie to bed, CR7 didn't celebrate. "What the United fans did tonight I will never forget in my life. I have to thank them." As one journalist put it, the night had turned into "The tale of the two Portuguese." The inclusion of Nani was very much a surprise, as was Wayne Rooney's omission from the starting eleven, though, had Ferguson met the media after the final whistle, he would surely had reminded them that United were going through before his team lost a man.

Madrid's reserve keeper Diego Lopez was outstanding - "our best player" as Mourinho remarked - and denied the home side several times, particularly late on, but, of course, by that point the game was dead. And while Ferguson was left wondering what might have been, Mourinho left Old Trafford with a sense that he had won his side back. The travelling Los Blancos fans chanted the Mourinho's name, and there's even suggestions that injured club captain Iker Casillas has kissed and made up with the the coach.

Mourinho said on Monday "the world would stop to watch this tie", and they did. But now the planet will await Ferguson's reaction with similar intrigue. His treble dream is over.

## SHORT PASSES

**Chelsea in contract talks with Lampard**

Chelsea are in talks with Frank Lampard over extending his contract according to the club's chief executive Ron Gourlay. The 34-year-old midfielder had previously been told he would not be offered a new deal, with his contract due to run out at the end of this season.

However, Chelsea have reportedly performed a u-turn, and are set to offer the veteran England international an extension following his impressive performances so far in 2012/13.

"Discussions with Frank Lampard are ongoing. But they must be kept confidential at this stage," Gourlay told the Mirror.

Lampard is believed to be desperate to extend his 12-year stay at Stamford Bridge, with his sights set on representing England at the 2014 FIFA World Cup in Brazil, while he only needs four more goals to eclipse Bobby Tambling's all-time Chelsea club record of 202 goals.

Gourlay also commented on the uncertainty surrounding interim manager Rafael Benitez after a turbulent week for the Spaniard.

"It was the club's plan to have Rafa Benitez as the interim manager with the aim of securing a Champions League position at the end of the Premier League season," he said.

"We'll assess (the) situation then. We can still win the Europa League and the FA Cup, but make no mistake, our priority lies with a Champions League spot."

**Bendtner sorry for drink driving**

Juventus striker Nicklas Bendtner has apologised after the Danish Football Federation banned him for six months for a drink-driving offence.

The Denmark international, on loan at the Serie A club from Arsenal, has scored 22 goals in 55 games for his country but will miss several key fixtures after being caught drink driving on Saturday.

As well as the punishment from his national federation, Bendtner received a US $145,000 fine from a Copenhagen court.

Bendtner said: "I am incredibly sorry for my actions. I can truly say, that this is the worst day of my life.

## Balkan Wrap

By Alex Milic

**Serbia**

**Partizan Belgrade has an eight point lead ahead of arch rivals Red Star Belgrade in the Serbian SuperLiga following Red Star's 1:1 draw against FK Rad and Partizan's 4:0 demolition of BSK Borca.**

Following the appeals lodged by UEFA, the English Football Association (FA) and the Serbian fitness coach Andreja Milutinovic against the decisions of the UEFA Control and Disciplinary Body of 13 December 2012 concerning a number of incidents that occurred during and after the 2013 UEFA European Under-21 Championship play-off second-leg match between Serbia and England last October, the UEFA Appeals Body has rendered the following decisions:

• The appeal lodged by UEFA is partially admitted as follows:

a) The Serbian fitness coach Andreja Milutinovic is suspended from all football-related activities for two years. FIFA will be requested to extend this decision so as to give it a worldwide effect.

b) The Serbian player Nikola Ninkovicis suspended for three UEFA national team competition matches.

c) The Serbian U21 team is ordered to play its next two home UEFA competition matches behind closed doors.

• The appeal lodged by the English FA is partially admitted as follows:

The England player Steven Caulker is issued with a warning in respect of his future conduct, and the player undertakes to perform one full day of community football service according to the instructions to be given by UEFA Disciplinary Services.

• The appeal lodged by Andreja Milutinovic is rejected.

The other decisions taken by the Control and Disciplinary Body on 13 December 2012 are confirmed.

Aleksander Nedovic

**Croatia**

**In recent years Dinamo Zagreb have introduced the world to the likes of Luka Modric, Niko Kranjcar, Eduardo, Vedran Corluka and Dejan Lovren. In January they sold 18-year-old midfielder Mateo Kovacic to FC Internazionale Milano for €11m, but gifted youngsters still remain at the club which has been professionally led by the controversial figure of Zdravko Mamic.**

17-year-old central defender Tin Jedvaj, caught the eye in the Croatian Derby which Dinamo won 2:1 at the Poljud Stadium against arch rivals and second-placed HNK Hajduk Split. It may have been just his third appearance, but Jedvaj showed the composure of a seasoned professional – on the outside at least.

"I must admit, I was a bit nervous, but I tried to forget that during the match," the teenager said. "I knew we would be faced with a fantastic atmosphere in Split and I tried to do my best to overcome that. I am delighted with the compliments I received, but don't worry — I will keep both feet on the ground. I will work hard to get better and better."

Alongside Jedvaj at the heart of Dinamo's back line was Josip Šimunic, a professional for 18 seasons with a century of international caps to his name. "Yes, the kid is playing fantastic," said the 35-year-old. "He is doing some great things on the pitch and he is only 17. Now we will try really hard to keep him on the right track. There is a bright future ahead of him but he is not alone – we have other young prospects in the squad."

Another Dinamo player with no shortage of experience, Croatian international midfielder Jerko Leko, is equally impressed by Jedvaj. "From the moment I saw him play, I knew he would be an excellent player," said Leko. "He really showed [against Hajduk] that he has a bright future. Tin could repeat Dejan Lovren's story."

That said, Jedvaj looks a long way off following in the footsteps of Lovren, who earned Dinamo around €8m when he moved to Olympique Lyonnais in 2010. Indeed, Jedvaj is still pinching himself having signed a seven-and-a-half-year professional contract on 20 February. "A few months ago I was watching the first team on TV, now I am in the team," he said at the time. "I am delighted and I will work hard to improve." If Wednesday is anything to go by, he is sticking to his word.

**Montenegro**

**The youngest top-flight coach in the Montenegrin First League at 34, Aleksandar Nedovic is fast making a name for himself having led FK Grbalj to mid-table safety and into the Montenegrin Cup semi-finals.**

The youngest top-flight coach at 34, Aleksandar Nedović is fast making a name for himself having led FK Grbalj to mid-table safety and into the Montenegrin Cup semi-finals.

Nedović, is the youngest manager in the Montenegrin First League and is enjoying success having steered the coastal side to mid-table safety, but greater rewards could yet lie ahead for the club who experienced UEFA Intertoto Cup football in 2007 and 2008. Speaking to uefa, Nedovic says"We are in the semi-finals [of the domestic cup] and I am sure we can make a step forward and fight for the trophy," said the 34-year-old.

Moving into the dugout was always a natural progression for the former Yugoslav youth international midfielder, who turned out for FK Buducnost Podgorica and FK Partizan in his playing days. "I always had an affinity for coaching," said the 2007 Montenegrin footballer of the year.

"When I was near the end of my career, I realised I was thinking about tactics more than my performance on the pitch. Thanks to Grbalj, I immediately got an opportunity in the top flight and I want to grab that chance."

So far so good for sixth-placed Grbalj, a small seaside club whose pre-season aim was to stay clear of the relegation zone and to promote young players to the first team. "We are close to fulfilling our goal in the championship and exceeding expectations in the cup," explained Nedovic. "We have already achieved our second objective. Our young striker Nemanja Nikolic signed for Russian top-division club FC Rostov, which makes me very proud."

Nedovic is not a one-off – he believes others like him will soon be making their mark in the technical area. "It's not easy for a young coach to reach the highest level, but a new generation is coming, one that is educated and has modern ideas. We are a small and young football nation and we need new blood, both on the pitch and on the bench.

"I will try to learn as much as possible, to educate myself in every way, and I hope one day I will have a chance to work abroad. I know it is not easy to have a coaching career from Montenegro, but who knows? I must be prepared for possible future challenges."

A No.10 in his day, Nedovic has moulded his side into a cohesive unit – Grbalj have conceded just seven goals in 18 matches, comfortably the best record in the 12-team league. "Defence is the core of the team, but we are not playing catenaccio," he stressed. "Put simply, I have players with better defensive instincts, although we always try to attack with at least five players. We are tough to beat."

EPL Wrap

By Andrew Bishara

# Spurs Running Hot

**There were a few talking points over the latest round of the Premier League. Here are a handful of things we learnt.**

Tottenham are the real deal. Last year, when the North London derby came around, Spurs were 10 points clear of the Gunners. They lost and it started their collapse, which saw them miss out on the Champions League football. Worse still, the Gunners finished above them. This season though, the tide has changed. The 2-1 win over Arsenal opened up a seven point gap, putting them in third, above Chelsea.

Now, that's no guarantee that things won't change till the end of the season. But Tottenham are brimming with confidence and actually look like grabs wins even when they aren't playing their best.

"We need to win all 10 matches" said Roberto Mancini after his side, did the job and beat Aston Villa 1-0. And what that means, is that if his Manchester City team win all their remaining matches, there is a faint hope they could snatch the title away from United.

The same can't be said of Arsenal, who look like a mess of a team or as Andre Villas-Boas said, are in a "negative spiral". Which could be good news for Spurs, and if they continue their run (and if Gareth Bale continues his form) they might finish above their most hated rivals for the first time since 1995…

By the time you ready this Manchester United's treble dreams would be shot. The controversial defeat to Real Madrid means that United are only in the hunt for the "Double". Which isn't such a bad outlook, but considering that his United team are on such a roll this season, it's hard to look pass the fact that the fans and the club expected to achieve more.

Anyway, they've got the Premier League sowed up. Their demolishment of Norwich City, with Shinji Kagawa netting his first hat-trick for the club, showed a ruthlessness that was suppose to be statement of intent to their rivals. It was and with Chelsea visiting Old Trafford this weekend for the FA Cup, you have to feel a little sorry for the Blues, because it's one team you don't want to play that has been shot down, that's United…

"We need to win all 10 matches" said Roberto Mancini after his side, did the job and beat Aston Villa 1-0. And what that means, is that if his Manchester City team win all their remaining matches, there is a faint hope they could snatch the title away from United.

However, they were unconvincing against Villa, struggling to put the game to bed. That's not to discredit Villa, who are fighting relegation. What's worst for City is that Sergio Aguero will be out for a couple of weeks, meaning it could dent their title run in. It might be a little difficult, considering that United are 12 points clear, yet City have still ruin their FA Cup dreams.

They face Barnsley this weekend and barring an unbelievable, shocking upset, will progress to the next round. Which means, they could maybe face off against United...

The relegation battle is really heating up. And I mean really heating up. We've got a seven teams in danger from the drop, yet considering that Newcastle and Sunderland have a bit of a gap (six points) to the bottom three, it means they might survive a major scare.

Which leaves Southampton, Wigan, Aston Villa, Reading and QPR fighting for the scraps. With the points so close together, it may come down to goal difference, which is just as close, which means that this battle will go down to the wire.

**FA Cup Preview**

**Like I mentioned earlier, Manchester United are a wounded beast. Their controversial loss to Real Madrid will certainly spark something deep inside that will awake to fight back. In their way, are Chelsea in the FA Cup. A loss and the Treble dream that looked so likely a week ago could be down just to a Premier League title.**

And you can sure bet that Chelsea will want to dig the dagger in deeper. Fighting to finish in the Top four, as well as to win the Europa League, and retain their FA Cup, Chelsea have a bundle of titles to fight for. Rafael Benitez will have to rotate his squad over the coming weeks, but you can bet he will put out the best eleven to ensure they can grab the away win and hopefully not get another "replay" of the game.

This will also be the first time that Benitez will face Sir Alex Ferguson since the Spaniard's return to the English game. There is no love between the two men, who have over the years, given each other the odd snide comments, amid mind games press conferences.

Ferguson would love to continue his decent record over the Benitez, but he knows there are bigger prizes at stake. Bowing out of the two competitions in one week, would be massive blow to the club. 12 points clear at the top of the table, dropping games in the league wouldn't have been such a dent, considering the gap they've established.

Both teams will have played games mid-week, so as mentioned, both teams will be rotating their team to keep their men fresh.

For Ferguson, he's got to see which players will help the club bounce back to winning ways. Robin Van Persie for example, has lost his golden touch at the moment. Perhaps giving Javier Hernandez the chance to shine could help United. And what about the back four? United have been great defensively since their early season shakiness. But Ferguson has to manage the injury prone Nemanja Vidic, as well as the injury to Phil Jones. A few decisions have to be made.

For Benitez, he's got a few headaches. John Terry's return to fitness means the Chelsea captain wants to be back on the field, playing regularly. But its clear that the captain isn't part of the Spaniard's plan.

Who will start at the tip of the strike force? Demba Ba more than deserves his place, considering his exceptional form. The manager though doesn't run Chelsea, but the owner; so don't be surprised if the fallen Fernando Torres makes a start. And who to rest of the attacking starlets of Hazard, Mata, Moses and Oscar? Benitez had always made sure his side is defensive secure before unleashing the shackles.

This isn't the only game in this round of FA Cup by the way. We're in the Quarter-finals, so after this round, we'll be down to the final four, with a trip to Wembley on the cards.

We've got another all-Premier League clash with Everton welcoming Wigan Athletic to Goodison Park. Manchester City welcome Barnsley to the Etihad Stadium and will look to end the season with another trophy in the cabinet. We've also got a Championship clash with Millwall welcoming Blackburn Rovers to The Den.

**FA CUP**

Everton v Wigan Athletic
Manchester City v Barnsley
Millwall v Blackburn Rovers
Manchester United v Chelsea

Andrew Bishara runs the popular football website http://thetrequartista.com

Sir Alex Ferguson and Rafa Benitez set to clash in the FA Cup this weekend

## ENGLAND EPL

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | GD | Pts | Last5games (Most recent first) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 Manchester United | 28 | 23 | 2 | 3 | 68 | 31 | +37 | 71 | W W W W W |
| 2 Manchester City | 28 | 17 | 8 | 3 | 51 | 24 | +27 | 59 | W W L D D |
| 3 Tottenham Hotspur | 28 | 16 | 6 | 6 | 49 | 33 | +16 | 54 | W W W W D |
| 4 Chelsea | 28 | 15 | 7 | 6 | 56 | 30 | +26 | 52 | W L W L D |
| 5 Arsenal | 28 | 13 | 8 | 7 | 53 | 32 | +21 | 47 | L W W W D |
| 6 Everton | 28 | 11 | 12 | 5 | 44 | 35 | +9 | 45 | W L L D W |
| 7 Liverpool | 28 | 11 | 9 | 8 | 53 | 34 | +19 | 42 | W W L D D |
| 8 Swansea City | 28 | 10 | 10 | 8 | 39 | 34 | +5 | 40 | W L W L D |
| 9 West Bromwich … | 28 | 12 | 4 | 12 | 38 | 37 | +1 | 40 | L W W L L |
| 10 Fulham | 28 | 8 | 9 | 11 | 39 | 44 | -5 | 33 | D W D L W |
| 11 Stoke City | 28 | 7 | 12 | 9 | 26 | 33 | -7 | 33 | L L W L D |
| 12 West Ham United | 28 | 9 | 6 | 13 | 32 | 41 | -9 | 33 | W L L W L |
| 13 Norwich City | 28 | 7 | 11 | 10 | 27 | 45 | -18 | 32 | L W D D D |
| 14 Sunderland | 28 | 7 | 9 | 12 | 31 | 38 | -7 | 30 | D L L L D |
| 15 Newcastle United | 28 | 8 | 6 | 14 | 38 | 49 | -11 | 30 | L W L W W |
| 16 Southampton | 28 | 6 | 9 | 13 | 39 | 51 | -12 | 27 | L L W D L |
| 17 Wigan Athletic | 28 | 6 | 6 | 16 | 33 | 55 | -22 | 24 | L W L D D |
| 18 Aston Villa | 28 | 5 | 9 | 14 | 26 | 53 | -27 | 24 | L L W D L |
| 19 Reading | 28 | 5 | 8 | 15 | 34 | 54 | -20 | 23 | L L L W D |
| 20 Queens Park Ra… | 28 | 3 | 11 | 14 | 21 | 44 | -23 | 20 | W L L D D |

| Latest Results | Next Match |
|---|---|
| Chelsea 1 - 0 WBA | West Ham PSTP Man Utd |
| Everton 3 - 1 Reading | Man City PSTP Wigan Athletic |
| Man Utd 4 - 0 Norwich City | Norwich City v Southampton |
| Southampton 1 - 2 QPR | QPR v Sunderland |
| Stoke City 0 - 1 West Ham | Reading v Aston Villa |
| Sunderland 2 - 2 Fulham | WBA v Swansea City |
| Swansea City 1 - 0 Newcastle | Fulham PSTP Chelsea |
| Wigan Athletic 0 - 4 Liverpool | Newcastle Utd v Stoke City |
| Tottenham 2 - 1 Arsenal | Liverpool v Tottenham |
| Aston Villa 0 - 1 Man City | |

**One To Watch This Weekend...**

**The Premier League is still on, so there's a host of games. The one to keep your eye on is Liverpool versus Tottenham. Both teams are on a roll at the moment, plus playing some superb football. It will be a mouth watering game.**

# Canaries Continue To Defy Odds In EPL Survival

London Eye

By Robert Davis

**Favourites to go down at the start of the season, an England international goalkeeper out for the majority of the season, a team of players plucked mostly from the Championship and a strike force that has produced between them only seven goals, Norwich City find themselves on the brink of Premier League survival.**

Ten games remain until the curtains close on the 2012-2013 season and the Canaries still have a fair amount of work to do to confirm a third consecutive term in the top flight. Rewind back to August though and after being, politely put, handed their footballing dignity on a plate by Fulham in a 5-0 opening day hammering, the Norwich doubters came out in full force. Not only were they now favourites to go down, they were favourites to finish bottom.

The ship was steadied with three well earned draws after the defeat at Craven Cottage, including a 1-1 draw against top four hopefuls Tottenham Hotspur. It took the eighth time of asking to record their first win of the season, by which time they were nineteenth in the table and facing an Arsenal side who were sitting fifth with only one loss to their name.

A well drilled side saw off Arsene Wenger's side on the day who struggled to carve open a resilient back line. A single Grant Holt goal half way through the first half was enough to capture Norwich's first three points of the season in spectacular giant killing fashion. What happened after that result confirmed that the East-Anglian side and manager Chris Hughton were not just along for the ride, they were here to survive.

A run of ten games unbeaten followed after the Arsenal result. Another huge scalp at Carrow Road against the champions elect Manchester United came in the form of another well earned 1-0 win thanks to a brilliantly guided header from Anthony Pilkington. Add to that a 4-3 victory away at soon to be Capital One Cup winners Swansea City, Norwich were catapulted into the top half of the table.

The unbeaten run was never going to last forever and it's how Hughton's men bounced back from a loss when it eventually came that those watching on could really see what his squad were made of.

On paper, Norwich didn't win for nine games. Delve into those results though, the likes of Chelsea, Manchester City and a resurgent Liverpool were disposed of on the fixture calendar, with only the latter claiming an expected thrashing, a 5-0 win against the Canaries. Another draw against Spurs and a win against another European chasing side Everton saw the team in Yellow steer themselves even further towards safety.

Norwich now find themselves just a few results away from the Holy Grail of 40 points, seen by many as the final tally which confirms Premier League safety (just three clubs have been relegated since the league was cut to 20 teams who have achieved 40 points or more; Sunderland-1997, Bolton Athletic-1998 and West Ham United-2003).

The remaining fixtures swing in their favour as well. With the majority of the big teams out the way, only Arsenal and Manchester City out of the top six are left to play and with winnable matches against Southampton, Sunderland and Wigan Athletic coming up in March, Norwich may be looking at a stress free end to the season.

Huge credit must go to Hughton for putting together such a hard working side that can compete at the highest level. Signings such as Robert Snodgrass and Sebastien Bassong may not have taken up too much space in the sports sections of the daily newspapers, what they and the other new signings have done though is integrated themselves into Hughton's side quickly and efficiently after a change in manager over the summer.

Norwich now find themselves just a few results away from the Holy Grail of 40 points, seen by many as the final tally which confirms Premier League safety (just three clubs have been relegated since the league was cut to 20 teams who have achieved 40 points or more; Sunderland-1997, Bolton Athletic-1998 and West Ham United-2003).

Snodgrass has certainly excelled from his previous seasons with Leeds United in the Championship where he appeared to be growing stale. A number of Premier League clubs looked at him and were unsure whether the midfielder would be able to make the step up. After a host of impressive performances and most notably, his cultured left foot turning a few heads, the gamble on the Scotland international appears to have paid off for Hughton, having scored or supplied over thirty percent of Norwich's goals in the league this term.

Fellow Leeds graduate Bradley Johnson has looked much more assured during his second season in the top flight alongside inspired new signing Alexander Tettey in the centre of midfield. Both sit in the engine room of the Norwich side that allows the creative players Snodgrass, Wes Hoolahan and Anthony Pilkington time and space on the ball as well as covering well in front of the back four.

Goals have been hard to come by this term as Holt has seen himself take a lone role up front for the majority of the season. The arrivals of Lucianno Becchio and Kei Kamara during the January transfer window can now look to take some of the burden off of the shoulders of the 31-year-old as well as add an extra option from the bench, something that Hughton was without during the first half of the season.

The Canaries aren't safe just yet. After a demoralising opening day of the season though, even the most ambitious of fans at Carrow Road would happily take this position with ten games left on the calendar.

Now with not only the opportunity to survive in the Premier League, Norwich also have the opportunity to finish above former manager Paul Lambert's Aston Villa side.

That really would prove the doubters wrong.

Anthony Pilkington, Alex Tettey and Robert Snodgrass of Norwich City celebrate three valuable points against Arsenal earlier in the season. Will it be enough to avoid relegation woes?

# Wrap Italia

By Luca Cetta

## Scudetto show-down finishes level

**Juventus were pegged back by Napoli, while Inter completed a stunning comeback at Catania. Milan, Roma and Fiorentina all won, while another Coach bit the dust.**

Ask any Napoli fan which is the team they most want to beat and the answer to inevitably fly back will be 'Juventus.' For years the Azzurri faithful have regarded Juve as the paradigm of the wealthy north. The symbol of everything they are not. In a country where the north-south divide still runs deep, Juventini – despite their huge southern following – were just as willing to paint Naples as the symbol of the south - the poorer, less sophisticated part of Italy.

Connotations deeper than football exist, but on Friday the feelings were mostly centred on the match. Juventus held a six point advantage over Napoli. The Stadio San Paolo meeting was seen as the Partenopei's chance to reignite their Scudetto flame. A Juve win and the title was as good as sealed.

The Bianconeri bus was pelted with eggs and rocks and whatever else, one shattering Kwadwo Asamoah's window. It was a sign of the intimidating atmosphere they were about to encounter. Not that they are strangers to it, but this was different. The stadium was packed two hours prior to kick-off.

When the action commenced, it took just 10 minutes for Andrea Pirlo's cross to be headed home by Giorgio Chiellini. The defender was making his first start since December and the impact was immediate. Mirko Vucinic spurned two chances thereafter, while Stephan Lichtsteiner felt he was impeded in the penalty area.

Napoli hit back when Gokhan Inler's drive took a deflection off Leonardo Bonucci, leaving Gianluigi Buffon stranded. There was an unsavoury incident as Edinson Cavani elbowed Chiellini in the face. The Uruguayan amazingly escaped with just a yellow card. After the break Napoli substitute Blerim Dzemaili could have won it, but somehow missed an open goal following a Buffon save.

The 1-1 draw means Juve retain their lead with 11 matches remaining. Walter Mazzarri felt Napoli were on top, but Antonio Conte lamented Juve's missed chances. "Considering the first half, we could taste the victory and the chance to put Napoli further behind. It didn't happen, but we put in a strong performance in terms of character despite a very fiery atmosphere."

On Friday emerged news from the Inter camp that Antonio Cassano and Andrea Stramaccioni had a heated disagreement. The attacker was dropped ahead of their tricky away clash at in-form Catania. The Sicilians were eyeing Inter's place in the European positions and raced to a 2-0 lead through Gonzalo Bergessio and Giovanni Marchese. On the ropes, Stramaccioni introduced Rodrigo Palacio for the second half and his impact was instant. He crossed for Ricky Alvarez to head home and then scored a brace, including an injury time winner, to complete an incredible Nerazzurri fight-back.

Milan took care of 10-man Lazio 3-0. Antonio Candreva was shown a straight red, deemed to deny a goalscoring opportunity as Stephan El Shaarawy raced through. On the back foot, Lazio could not hold out. Giampaolo Pazzini and Kevin-Prince Boateng were first to rebounds to tap home, while Pazzini scored a beauty in the second half.

Francesco Totti equalled Milan great Gunnar Nordahl's mark of 225 Serie A goals in Roma's 3-1 win over Genoa. He joined the Swede in second place on the all-time standings behind Silvio Piola on 274 by converting an early penalty. Genoa hit back, but Alessio Romagnoli scored a debut Giallorossi goal to extend the lead. He wasn't even born when Totti scored his first for the club. Simone Perrotta sealed the victory in the dying moments.

Vincenzo Montella admitted Luca Toni was offside as Fiorentina found a winner against Chievo. Manuel Pasqual curled in a superb free kick, but the visitors responded. Toni's header with 12 minutes remaining became an assist for Marcelo Larrondo's first Viola goal, although the former Italian international was in an offside position as the free kick was swung in.

Elsewhere, Cristiano Bergodi was sacked as Pescara fell to a 1-0 home defeat versus Udinese. Three great goals saw Bologna down Cagliari, while Sampdoria edged past Parma thanks to Mauro Icardi. Atalanta won at Siena, while finally, Torino and Palermo played out a dour goalless draw.

### Looking ahead: Euro battle looms large

**Lazio have won just once in seven matches to go from an outside Scudetto chance to potentially missing out on Europe. They face a Fiorentina outfit looking to rediscover their winning consistency, sorely lacking in 2013.**

The capital club are currently fifth, one place and two points above Montella's men. The loss of Miroslav Klose to injury has evidently hurt Vladimir Petkovic's men.

Juventus face a tough test, welcoming Catania to Turin. The visitors looked great for an hour versus Inter but failed to kill the game. The same applies for Juve, who could have been well clear of Napoli before the hosts dug deep. Catania are eighth but road form has been their Achilles heel. They have won just three matches on their travels.

Elsewhere, Pescara have promoted Christian Bucchi from the youth bench to the senior team, as they go into a must-win encounter at Atalanta, while Cagliari host the revived Sampdoria. Chievo continue their tricky run by facing Napoli, who have struggled in Verona in recent years. Genoa will look to bounce back against the dangerous Milan, while Inter face Bologna. Two sides currently in the relegation zone meet as Palermo host Siena, while Parma – eight games without a win - entertain Torino. Finally, Udinese host Roma.

Giorgio Chiellini heads home for Juventus in the top-of-the-table 1-1 clash with Napoli.

## ITALY Serie A

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | GD | Pts | Last5games (Most recent first) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 Juventus | 27 | 18 | 5 | 4 | 54 | 18 | +36 | 59 | D W L W W |
| 2 Napoli | 27 | 15 | 8 | 4 | 47 | 22 | +25 | 53 | D D D D W |
| 3 Milan | 27 | 14 | 6 | 7 | 48 | 32 | +16 | 48 | W D W D W |
| 4 Lazio | 27 | 14 | 5 | 8 | 37 | 32 | +5 | 47 | L W L D L |
| 5 Internazionale | 27 | 14 | 5 | 8 | 44 | 36 | +8 | 47 | W D L W L |
| 6 Fiorentina | 27 | 13 | 6 | 8 | 48 | 33 | +15 | 45 | W L W L W |
| 7 Roma | 27 | 13 | 4 | 10 | 57 | 48 | +9 | 43 | W W W L L |
| 8 Catania | 27 | 12 | 6 | 9 | 36 | 34 | +2 | 42 | L W W D L |
| 9 Udinese | 27 | 10 | 10 | 7 | 36 | 34 | +2 | 40 | W D L W L |
| 10 Sampdoria | 27 | 10 | 6 | 11 | 34 | 30 | +4 | 35 | W W D W D |
| 11 Bologna | 27 | 9 | 5 | 13 | 38 | 36 | +2 | 32 | W W L D W |
| 12 Parma | 27 | 8 | 8 | 11 | 32 | 36 | -4 | 32 | L L L D L |
| 13 Torino | 27 | 7 | 12 | 8 | 32 | 32 | +0 | 32 | D L W L D |
| 14 Cagliari | 27 | 8 | 7 | 12 | 32 | 47 | -15 | 31 | L W W D W |
| 15 Atalanta | 27 | 9 | 5 | 13 | 26 | 38 | -12 | 30 | W L L D W |
| 16 Chievo | 27 | 8 | 5 | 14 | 27 | 44 | -17 | 29 | L L D L L |
| 17 Genoa | 27 | 6 | 8 | 13 | 27 | 40 | -13 | 26 | L D W D W |
| 18 Siena | 27 | 7 | 6 | 14 | 27 | 39 | -12 | 21 | L L W D W |
| 19 Pescara | 27 | 6 | 3 | 18 | 20 | 54 | -34 | 21 | L L L D L |
| 20 Palermo | 27 | 3 | 12 | 12 | 22 | 39 | -17 | 21 | D D D D L |

| Latest Results | This Week |
|---|---|
| Napoli 1 - 1 Juventus | Genoa v Milan |
| Milan 3 - 0 Lazio | Udinese v Roma |
| Torino 0 - 0 Palermo | Atalanta v Pescara |
| Siena 0 - 2 Atalanta | Juventus v Catania |
| Bologna 3 - 0 Cagliari | Chievo v Napoli |
| Fiorentina 2 - 1 Chievo | Cagliari v Sampdoria |
| Catania 2 - 3 Inter | Palermo v Siena |
| Sampdoria 1 - 0 Parma | Parma v Torino |
| Pescara 0 - 1 Udinese | Inter v Bologna |
| Roma 3 - 1 Genoa | Lazio v Fiorentina |

### One To Watch This Weekend...

**Roma are Antonio Di Natale's favourite opponent. The striker, who in Pescara netted his 150th Serie A goal for Udinese, has 13 career strikes against the Giallorossi. This includes two netted earlier this season.**

# Viva Espana

By Pepe Lopez

## Mourinho's Real Get Out Of Jail

**With media across Europe all but having written off Real Madrid's season and Jose Mourinho's future in the Spanish capital, the coach once referred to as the "The Special One" is now on track to restore his honour and achieve the success he was specifically hired for.**

Despite only drawing 1-1 at the Estadio Santiago Bernabeu in Madrid in their 1st leg of the Champions League Round of 16, Real pulled off a controversial 2-1 win in the return leg at Old Trafford in Manchester to secure their passage to the UEFA Champions League Quarter Finals.

Just one week prior to their recent Champions League success, Real Madrid defeated their arch rivals Barcelona FC at the Camp Nou in Barcelona 3-1, to win 4-2 on aggregate in the Spanish Cup Semi Finals and secure their passage to the Spanish Cup Final, to be played later in May this season. To place a cherry on the top of their cake, Real Madrid defeated Barcelona FC a second time in 4 days, in Madrid in Round 26 of the Spanish La Liga El Clasico. Whilst the win in La Liga still leaves Madrid 13 points behind Barcelona, and little chance of catching Barcelona in the 11 remaining fixtures, it is the psychological victory the club needs in their chase for their 10th European Champions title. TAB Sports Bet in Australia, now has Real Madrid as a $3.25 outright favourite for this season's Champions League title.

Speaking at the post match press conference, Jose Mourinho had this to say of the UEFA Champions League Quarter-Finals; "We've removed a big one, but the Champions League is full of good teams. Nobody speaks about Dortmund, I played them in the group phase, they are fantastic.

Nobody talks about Celtic, from Milan-Barca a big team will come too, I don't know, Paris, Valencia, Bayern. There are so many teams, so many obstacles, but this one was important, particularly after the first leg."

Meanwhile across to the north of Spain, long lives the classic cliché, that one week is a long time in football. Gone is the intense media pressure on the Madridistas, it is now Barca on the back foot, their president Sandro Rosell reacted to his club's spotlight attention after being knocked out of the Spanish Cup and on the verge of being knocked out of the UEFA Champions League with these curious statements; "I want to convey calm. Efforts are underway to restore the tension and freshness. I thought the reaction was a bit exaggerated. We are well placed in La Liga, we will try to get past Milan but if not, it's not the end of the world."

The call for calm from president Rosell ironically comes just a matter of just 10 days after boasting to press "This Barcelona are the best team ever". Rosell is losing his control of matters at Camp Nou, and his recent press conferences are not helping.

Back in the capital of Spain, one man very much in control of his situation is Argentine Diego Simeone. His club Atletico Madrid have just announced a new contract deal for their manager to keep their coach and former midfielder at the club until 2017. An official club statement read; "Atletico Madrid and Diego Simeone have agreed to renew the coach's contract for the next four seasons. The coach, who represented los Rojiblancos as a player in two separate periods, including the historic double-winning time in 1996, returned to Atleti in late December 2011 to take over the first team. Simeone won two European titles in his first year as Atletico coach - the Europa League and the Uefa Super Cup - and this season has qualified the team for the final of the Copa del Rey."

### Simeone signs Atletico extension

**Diego Simeone has extended his contract with Atletico Madrid, tying him to the club until 2017.**

The Liga outfit have had an excellent season to date, and sit second on the table, ahead of local rivals Real Madrid.

The club have also qualified for the Copa del Rey final thanks to a 4-3 aggregate win over Sevilla in the semi-final, setting up a mouth-watering clash against Jose Mourinho's men in May.

A statement released on Tuesday afternoon by the club said: "Atletico Madrid and Diego Simeone have agreed to renew the coach's contract for the next four seasons.

"The coach, who played as a player in the Rojiblancos in two separate periods (1994-97 and 2003-05), including the historic double-winning time in 1996, returned to Atleti in late December 2011 to take over the first team.

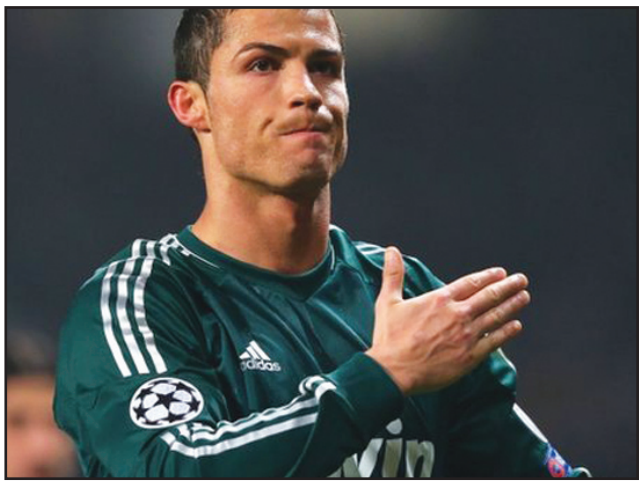
"Simeone won two European titles in his first year as Atletico coach - the Europa League and the UEFA Super Cup - and this season has qualified the team for the final of the Copa del Rey."

One of the few negatives for Simeone this season was their shock exit from the Europa League in February at the hands on Rubin Kazan in the last 32.

Atleti were the reigning champions in the competition, but appear on course for Champions League qualification this term.

Argentine Simeone started his coaching career with San Lorenzo and then Catania before succeeding Gregorio Manzano in the Atleti hotseat, and has seen his reputation soar while at Estadio Vicente Calderon.

He has been mooted as a surprise replacement for Mourinho across the city at the Santiago Bernabeu, and has also been linked with Inter Milan and Chelsea.



Ronaldo scored the winner for Real Madrid against his former club

## SPAIN La Liga

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | GD | Pts | Last5games (Most recent first) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 Barcelona | 26 | 22 | 2 | 2 | 83 | 30 | +53 | 68 | L W W W D |
| 2 Atlético Madrid | 26 | 18 | 3 | 5 | 48 | 23 | +25 | 57 | D W W L W |
| 3 Real Madrid | 26 | 17 | 4 | 5 | 64 | 24 | +40 | 55 | W W W W L |
| 4 Málaga | 26 | 12 | 7 | 7 | 37 | 24 | +13 | 43 | D L W W D |
| 5 Valencia | 26 | 12 | 6 | 8 | 38 | 39 | -1 | 42 | D D W W D |
| 6 Real Sociedad | 26 | 11 | 8 | 7 | 44 | 34 | +10 | 41 | D W D W W |
| 7 Real Betis | 26 | 12 | 4 | 10 | 37 | 38 | -1 | 40 | D W L D L |
| 8 Rayo Vallecano | 26 | 12 | 2 | 12 | 34 | 43 | -9 | 38 | D L L W L |
| 9 Getafe | 26 | 11 | 5 | 10 | 37 | 44 | -7 | 38 | W W W L W |
| 10 Sevilla | 26 | 10 | 5 | 11 | 38 | 38 | +0 | 35 | W L W L W |
| 11 Levante | 26 | 10 | 5 | 11 | 32 | 40 | -8 | 35 | D L D L L |
| 12 Real Valladolid | 26 | 9 | 7 | 10 | 34 | 33 | +1 | 34 | D W L D D |
| 13 Espanyol | 26 | 8 | 8 | 10 | 31 | 35 | -4 | 32 | D L W W W |
| 14 Athletic Club | 26 | 8 | 5 | 13 | 31 | 50 | -19 | 29 | W L L L D |
| 15 Osasuna | 26 | 7 | 7 | 12 | 22 | 28 | -6 | 28 | L W W D W |
| 16 Granada | 26 | 7 | 5 | 14 | 25 | 38 | -13 | 26 | L L L W W |
| 17 Real Zaragoza | 26 | 7 | 4 | 15 | 25 | 38 | -13 | 25 | L D L L D |
| 18 Celta de Vigo | 26 | 6 | 5 | 15 | 25 | 36 | -11 | 23 | L W L L L |
| 19 Mallorca | 26 | 5 | 6 | 15 | 26 | 49 | -23 | 21 | W L L D L |
| 20 Deportivo La C… | 26 | 3 | 8 | 15 | 29 | 56 | -27 | 17 | D L L L L |

| Latest Results | This Week |
|---|---|
| Getafe 2 - 0 Real Zaragoza | Real Betis v Osasuna |
| Real Madrid 2 - 1 Barcelona | Rayo Vallecano v Espanyol |
| Deportivo 0 - 0 R Vallecano | Real Valladolid v Málaga |
| Osasuna 0 - 1 Athletic Club | Barcelona v Deportivo |
| Valencia 2 - 2 Levante | Mallorca v Sevilla |
| Granada 1 - 2 Mallorca | Athletic Club v Valencia |
| Espanyol 0 - 0 Real Valladolid | Levante v Getafe |
| Málaga 0 - 0 Atlético Madrid | Celta Vigo v Real Madrid |
| Real Sociedad 3 - 3 Real Betis | Atl Madrid v R Sociedad |
| Sevilla 4 - 1 Celta de Vigo | Real Zaragoza v Granada |

### One To Watch This Weekend...

On Monday morning AET, a relegation 6 pointer will take place between Real Zaragoza and Granada at the Estadio La Romareda, in Zaragoza.

Zaragoza and Granada lie precariously above the relegation by 2 and 3 points respectively.

## CROATIA 1.HNL

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | GD | Pts | Last5games Most recent first |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 Dinamo Zagreb | 22 | 16 | 2 | 4 | 49 | 18 | +31 | 50 | W W W L W |
| 2 Hajduk Split | 22 | 11 | 6 | 5 | 32 | 16 | +16 | 39 | W L W W D |
| 3 Lokomotiva | 22 | 10 | 6 | 6 | 32 | 26 | +6 | 36 | L W D W L |
| 4 Split | 22 | 10 | 4 | 8 | 33 | 27 | +6 | 34 | D L W L W |
| 5 Rijeka | 22 | 9 | 7 | 6 | 30 | 28 | +2 | 34 | D D L D D |
| 6 Slaven Koprivnica | 22 | 9 | 5 | 8 | 30 | 33 | -3 | 32 | L D L D W |
| 7 Osijek | 22 | 6 | 10 | 6 | 21 | 20 | +1 | 28 | D D L W L |
| 8 Istra 1961 | 22 | 5 | 8 | 9 | 20 | 25 | -5 | 23 | D D D L D |
| 9 Zadar | 22 | 6 | 5 | 11 | 23 | 38 | -15 | 23 | W L W W D |
| 10 Zagreb | 22 | 6 | 4 | 12 | 18 | 36 | -18 | 22 | W W L W D |
| 11 Inter Zaprešic | 22 | 4 | 8 | 10 | 24 | 30 | -6 | 20 | L D L L L |
| 12 Cibalia | 22 | 5 | 5 | 12 | 18 | 33 | -15 | 20 | L D W L D |

## TURKEY Süper Lig

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | GD | Pts | Last5games Most recent first |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 Galatasaray | 24 | 13 | 8 | 3 | 46 | 27 | +19 | 47 | D W W W D |
| 2 Beşiktaş | 24 | 11 | 9 | 4 | 51 | 35 | +16 | 42 | W W D W D |
| 3 Fenerbahçe | 24 | 11 | 7 | 6 | 39 | 28 | +11 | 40 | L W W W L |
| 4 Bursaspor | 24 | 9 | 10 | 5 | 36 | 28 | +8 | 37 | W L W W D |
| 5 Antalyaspor | 24 | 11 | 4 | 9 | 38 | 35 | +3 | 37 | W L D L W |
| 6 Kasımpaşa | 24 | 10 | 6 | 8 | 34 | 26 | +8 | 36 | W L W L D |
| 7 Kayserispor | 24 | 10 | 5 | 9 | 33 | 33 | +0 | 35 | W W W D W |
| 8 Eskişehirspor | 24 | 8 | 10 | 6 | 38 | 29 | +9 | 34 | D D L W D |
| 9 Gençlerbirliği | 24 | 7 | 10 | 7 | 35 | 35 | +0 | 31 | D L W L L |
| 10 Trabzonspor | 24 | 8 | 6 | 10 | 26 | 29 | -3 | 30 | L W L L W |
| 11 Orduspor | 24 | 6 | 11 | 7 | 29 | 30 | -1 | 29 | W L D D W |
| 12 Sivasspor | 24 | 8 | 5 | 11 | 25 | 31 | -6 | 29 | L L L W W |
| 13 Karabükspor | 24 | 8 | 5 | 11 | 30 | 40 | -10 | 29 | L L D L D |
| 14 Gaziantepspor | 24 | 7 | 7 | 10 | 25 | 38 | -13 | 28 | L W D W L |
| 15 İstanbul BB | 24 | 7 | 7 | 10 | 29 | 30 | -1 | 28 | D D D L L |
| 16 Elazığspor | 24 | 6 | 9 | 9 | 20 | 35 | -15 | 27 | W W L L D |
| 17 Akhisar Beledi… | 24 | 5 | 7 | 12 | 19 | 33 | -14 | 22 | L W L W L |
| 18 Mersin İdmanyurdu | 24 | 4 | 8 | 12 | 24 | 35 | -11 | 20 | L L L L D |

## SERBIA Super Liga

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | GD | Pts | Last5games Most recent first |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 Partizan | 16 | 13 | 1 | 2 | 47 | 12 | +35 | 40 | W D W L W |
| 2 Crvena Zvezda | 17 | 11 | 2 | 4 | 34 | 24 | +10 | 35 | D W L W W |
| 3 Vojvodina | 17 | 9 | 7 | 1 | 17 | 9 | +8 | 34 | W W W D W |
| 4 Jagodina | 17 | 10 | 2 | 5 | 20 | 14 | +6 | 32 | W L W W L |
| 5 Rad Beograd | 17 | 7 | 6 | 4 | 20 | 13 | +7 | 27 | D D D W W |
| 6 Sloboda Užice | 17 | 7 | 6 | 4 | 22 | 22 | +0 | 27 | W D W L W |
| 7 Javor Ivanjica | 17 | 8 | 2 | 7 | 27 | 16 | +11 | 26 | W L W W D |
| 8 Spartak Subotica | 17 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 24 | 20 | +4 | 23 | L D D L W |
| 9 OFK Beograd | 17 | 6 | 4 | 7 | 20 | 19 | +1 | 22 | L D W W W |
| 10 Novi Pazar | 17 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 18 | 20 | -2 | 19 | W D L L D |
| 11 Radnički Niš | 17 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 15 | 27 | -12 | 18 | W D D L L |
| 12 Hajduk Kula | 17 | 4 | 4 | 9 | 17 | 21 | -4 | 16 | L W W W L |
| 13 Donji Srem | 17 | 4 | 4 | 9 | 13 | 22 | -9 | 16 | L D L L L |
| 14 BSK Borča | 16 | 4 | 2 | 10 | 14 | 35 | -21 | 14 | L L L W D |
| 15 Radnički 1923 … | 17 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 13 | 24 | -11 | 13 | L D L D L |
| 16 Smederevo | 17 | 1 | 5 | 11 | 7 | 30 | -23 | 8 | L L L L L |

## GERMANY Bundesliga

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | GD | Pts | Last5games Most recent first |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 Bayern München | 24 | 20 | 3 | 1 | 64 | 8 | +56 | 63 | W W W W W |
| 2 Borussia Dortmund | 24 | 13 | 7 | 4 | 54 | 28 | +26 | 46 | W D W L W |
| 3 Bayer Leverkusen | 24 | 13 | 6 | 5 | 45 | 31 | +14 | 45 | W D W D L |
| 4 Eintracht Fran… | 24 | 11 | 5 | 8 | 38 | 35 | +3 | 38 | L D L D W |
| 5 Freiburg | 24 | 9 | 9 | 6 | 30 | 23 | +7 | 36 | D D W W L |
| 6 Schalke 04 | 24 | 10 | 6 | 8 | 41 | 39 | +2 | 36 | W W D L L |
| 7 Hamburger SV | 24 | 10 | 5 | 9 | 29 | 33 | -4 | 35 | D L W W L |
| 8 Mainz 05 | 24 | 9 | 7 | 8 | 32 | 29 | +3 | 34 | D D D D L |
| 9 Borussia M'gla… | 24 | 8 | 10 | 6 | 33 | 34 | -1 | 34 | W D L D L |
| 10 Hannover 96 | 24 | 10 | 3 | 11 | 47 | 45 | +2 | 33 | L W D W L |
| 11 Stuttgart | 24 | 8 | 5 | 11 | 26 | 42 | -16 | 29 | L D W L L |
| 12 Fortuna Düsseldorf | 24 | 7 | 7 | 10 | 29 | 32 | -3 | 28 | D L W L W |
| 13 Nürnberg | 24 | 6 | 10 | 8 | 24 | 31 | -7 | 28 | D D D D W |
| 14 Werder Bremen | 24 | 8 | 4 | 12 | 39 | 48 | -9 | 28 | L L L W W |
| 15 Wolfsburg | 24 | 7 | 6 | 11 | 24 | 37 | -13 | 27 | L D L W D |
| 16 Augsburg | 24 | 4 | 9 | 11 | 21 | 36 | -15 | 21 | W W L D D |
| 17 Hoffenheim | 24 | 4 | 4 | 16 | 27 | 49 | -22 | 16 | L L L L W |
| 18 Greuther Fürth | 24 | 2 | 8 | 14 | 14 | 37 | -23 | 14 | D D L L W |

## HOLLAND Eredivisie

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | GD | Pts | Last5games Most recent first |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 PSV | 25 | 17 | 2 | 6 | 80 | 27 | +53 | 53 | W L W D W |
| 2 Ajax | 25 | 14 | 9 | 2 | 56 | 25 | +31 | 51 | W D W D W |
| 3 Feyenoord | 25 | 15 | 5 | 5 | 50 | 32 | +18 | 50 | W W L W W |
| 4 Vitesse | 25 | 14 | 6 | 5 | 50 | 31 | +19 | 48 | W W W D L |
| 5 Twente | 25 | 12 | 8 | 5 | 40 | 24 | +16 | 44 | L L D D L |
| 6 Utrecht | 25 | 12 | 6 | 7 | 38 | 29 | +9 | 42 | L W L L W |
| 7 NEC | 25 | 10 | 6 | 9 | 35 | 41 | -6 | 36 | L W L W W |
| 8 ADO Den Haag | 25 | 8 | 11 | 6 | 41 | 43 | -2 | 35 | W D W W L |
| 9 Heerenveen | 25 | 7 | 8 | 10 | 36 | 46 | -10 | 29 | W W L D W |
| 10 Groningen | 25 | 8 | 5 | 12 | 24 | 39 | -15 | 29 | L W L W W |
| 11 Heracles | 25 | 6 | 10 | 9 | 49 | 53 | -4 | 28 | L L D W D |
| 12 NAC Breda | 25 | 7 | 6 | 12 | 27 | 42 | -15 | 27 | L W D L W |
| 13 RKC Waalwijk | 25 | 6 | 8 | 11 | 27 | 33 | -6 | 26 | W L L L L |
| 14 PEC Zwolle | 25 | 6 | 8 | 11 | 27 | 38 | -11 | 26 | W L W D L |
| 15 AZ | 25 | 6 | 7 | 12 | 35 | 43 | -8 | 25 | L L D L L |
| 16 Roda JC | 25 | 5 | 10 | 10 | 36 | 50 | -14 | 25 | W L D D D |
| 17 VVV | 25 | 5 | 7 | 13 | 28 | 51 | -23 | 22 | L W W D L |
| 18 Willem II | 25 | 2 | 8 | 15 | 23 | 55 | -32 | 14 | L L D L L |

## SCOTLAND SPL

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | GD | Pts | Last5games Most recent first |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 Celtic | 29 | 19 | 5 | 5 | 68 | 23 | +45 | 62 | L W D W W |
| 2 Motherwell | 29 | 13 | 7 | 9 | 47 | 40 | +7 | 46 | W W L L W |
| 3 Inverness CT | 29 | 10 | 13 | 6 | 53 | 46 | +7 | 43 | D D W L D |
| 4 Ross County | 29 | 10 | 12 | 7 | 36 | 34 | +2 | 42 | D W W W W |
| 5 St. Johnstone | 30 | 10 | 11 | 9 | 36 | 37 | -1 | 41 | L D W D L |
| 6 Hibernian | 29 | 10 | 9 | 10 | 38 | 38 | +0 | 39 | D D W L L |
| 7 Kilmarnock | 29 | 9 | 11 | 9 | 44 | 38 | +6 | 38 | D D W D W |
| 8 Dundee United | 29 | 9 | 11 | 9 | 45 | 50 | -5 | 38 | D D W L W |
| 9 Aberdeen | 29 | 9 | 10 | 10 | 33 | 36 | -3 | 37 | L D W D L |
| 10 Heart of Midlo… | 30 | 8 | 9 | 13 | 30 | 41 | -11 | 33 | W L L L L |
| 11 St. Mirren | 29 | 8 | 8 | 13 | 36 | 47 | -11 | 32 | L W L L D |
| 12 Dundee | 29 | 4 | 6 | 19 | 18 | 54 | -36 | 18 | W D L L L |

## THE CHAMPIONSHIP

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | GD | Pts | Last5games Most recent first |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 Cardiff City | 35 | 22 | 5 | 8 | 57 | 37 | +20 | 71 | D L W L W |
| 2 Watford | 36 | 20 | 6 | 10 | 71 | 45 | +26 | 66 | W D W W W |
| 3 Hull City | 36 | 20 | 5 | 11 | 53 | 43 | +10 | 65 | L W L W W |
| 4 Crystal Palace | 36 | 18 | 10 | 8 | 65 | 44 | +21 | 64 | W W L W W |
| 5 Leicester City | 35 | 17 | 7 | 11 | 57 | 30 | +27 | 58 | D L W D L |
| 6 Brighton & Hov… | 35 | 14 | 14 | 7 | 50 | 35 | +15 | 56 | D W W W D |
| 7 Nottingham Forest | 36 | 14 | 12 | 10 | 51 | 46 | +5 | 54 | W W W W D |
| 8 Middlesbrough | 36 | 17 | 3 | 16 | 55 | 55 | +0 | 54 | L W L D L |
| 9 Bolton Wanderers | 36 | 13 | 12 | 11 | 54 | 49 | +5 | 51 | W W W W D |
| 10 Leeds United | 35 | 14 | 8 | 13 | 45 | 49 | -4 | 50 | D W D W L |
| 11 Burnley | 36 | 13 | 9 | 14 | 49 | 49 | +0 | 48 | D W L L D |
| 12 Derby County | 36 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 51 | 50 | +1 | 45 | D L L D D |
| 13 Blackburn Rovers | 36 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 44 | 47 | -3 | 45 | L L L D L |
| 14 Charlton Athletic | 36 | 11 | 11 | 14 | 45 | 50 | -5 | 44 | D L L W L |
| 15 Millwall | 35 | 12 | 8 | 15 | 44 | 52 | -8 | 44 | L L W L L |
| 16 Huddersfield Town | 36 | 11 | 11 | 14 | 38 | 62 | -24 | 44 | W L W D L |
| 17 Blackpool | 36 | 10 | 13 | 13 | 51 | 50 | +1 | 43 | D D D L L |
| 18 Birmingham City | 36 | 10 | 13 | 13 | 46 | 58 | -12 | 43 | D L W D L |
| 19 Ipswich Town | 36 | 11 | 9 | 16 | 35 | 55 | -20 | 42 | L W D L W |
| 20 Sheffield Wedn… | 35 | 11 | 7 | 17 | 40 | 50 | -10 | 40 | L L W D D |
| 21 Wolverhampton … | 36 | 10 | 9 | 17 | 42 | 50 | -8 | 39 | W D L L D |
| 22 Barnsley | 35 | 10 | 8 | 17 | 44 | 57 | -13 | 38 | D L L W W |
| 23 Peterborough U… | 35 | 11 | 4 | 20 | 53 | 63 | -10 | 37 | D W L L W |
| 24 Bristol City | 36 | 10 | 6 | 20 | 51 | 65 | -14 | 36 | D D W L L |

## LEAGUE ONE

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | GD | Pts | Last5games Most recent first |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 Doncaster Rovers | 36 | 19 | 8 | 9 | 51 | 35 | +16 | 65 | L W W D D |
| 2 Sheffield United | 35 | 17 | 13 | 5 | 50 | 29 | +21 | 64 | W D W W W |
| 3 Swindon Town | 35 | 17 | 11 | 7 | 58 | 25 | +33 | 62 | W L D W D |
| 4 Yeovil Town | 35 | 19 | 4 | 12 | 57 | 43 | +14 | 61 | W L D W W |
| 5 Brentford | 35 | 16 | 13 | 6 | 48 | 34 | +14 | 61 | L W W D W |
| 6 Tranmere Rovers | 36 | 17 | 9 | 10 | 54 | 37 | +17 | 60 | L D W L L |
| 7 AFC Bournemouth | 36 | 16 | 10 | 10 | 58 | 48 | +10 | 58 | L L L L W |
| 8 Walsall | 36 | 15 | 10 | 11 | 52 | 49 | +3 | 55 | W W D D W |
| 9 Coventry City | 36 | 15 | 8 | 13 | 57 | 44 | +13 | 53 | L W L W L |
| 10 Notts County | 35 | 13 | 13 | 9 | 50 | 37 | +13 | 52 | W D W D D |
| 11 Milton Keynes Dons | 34 | 13 | 11 | 10 | 46 | 37 | +9 | 50 | W D D D D |
| 12 Crawley Town | 34 | 14 | 8 | 12 | 44 | 46 | -2 | 50 | D W L W D |
| 13 Leyton Orient | 35 | 15 | 5 | 15 | 39 | 41 | -2 | 50 | W D L L W |
| 14 Crewe Alexandra | 34 | 13 | 8 | 13 | 41 | 46 | -5 | 47 | L L W L D |
| 15 Stevenage | 35 | 13 | 7 | 15 | 40 | 48 | -8 | 46 | W L L L L |
| 16 Carlisle United | 36 | 11 | 9 | 16 | 42 | 61 | -19 | 42 | D L L D D |
| 17 Preston North End | 34 | 9 | 13 | 12 | 43 | 44 | -1 | 40 | D D W L L |
| 18 Shrewsbury Town | 36 | 9 | 13 | 14 | 40 | 46 | -6 | 40 | L L W W L |
| 19 Colchester United | 36 | 11 | 6 | 19 | 36 | 55 | -19 | 39 | D W W L L |
| 20 Scunthorpe United | 36 | 10 | 8 | 18 | 38 | 58 | -20 | 38 | L W L L W |
| 21 Oldham Athletic | 34 | 10 | 6 | 18 | 35 | 48 | -13 | 36 | L W W W L |
| 22 Hartlepool United | 36 | 7 | 10 | 19 | 33 | 57 | -24 | 31 | D L W W W |
| 23 Bury | 35 | 6 | 12 | 17 | 33 | 54 | -21 | 30 | L W L L L |
| 24 Portsmouth | 36 | 6 | 9 | 21 | 37 | 60 | -23 | 27 | W D L D D |

## LEAGUE TWO

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | GD | Pts | Last5games Most recent first |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 Gillingham | 35 | 19 | 9 | 7 | 53 | 28 | +25 | 66 | D L W W D |
| 2 Port Vale | 36 | 18 | 10 | 8 | 66 | 37 | +29 | 64 | D L L W L |
| 3 Cheltenham Town | 37 | 16 | 13 | 8 | 49 | 43 | +6 | 61 | W W D D D |
| 4 Rotherham United | 35 | 18 | 6 | 11 | 58 | 47 | +11 | 60 | W D D W W |
| 5 Burton Albion | 36 | 17 | 8 | 11 | 55 | 48 | +7 | 59 | L W W W W |
| 6 Northampton Town | 36 | 17 | 7 | 12 | 55 | 48 | +7 | 58 | L W W D W |
| 7 Exeter City | 35 | 17 | 7 | 11 | 55 | 44 | +11 | 58 | W W L W W |
| 8 Southend United | 35 | 14 | 9 | 12 | 49 | 38 | +11 | 51 | D L W L L |
| 9 Fleetwood Town | 35 | 13 | 12 | 10 | 43 | 39 | +4 | 51 | L D L L W |
| 10 Bradford City | 34 | 13 | 10 | 11 | 47 | 39 | +8 | 49 | D W D L W |
| 11 Oxford United | 36 | 14 | 7 | 15 | 46 | 53 | -7 | 49 | L W W D W |
| 12 Morecambe | 36 | 13 | 10 | 13 | 48 | 46 | +2 | 49 | W L D W W |
| 13 Wycombe Wander | 35 | 14 | 6 | 15 | 42 | 47 | -5 | 48 | W W L L L |
| 14 Chesterfield | 36 | 12 | 11 | 13 | 41 | 36 | +5 | 47 | L W D L L |
| 15 Bristol Rovers | 35 | 11 | 9 | 15 | 45 | 56 | -11 | 42 | W L D L W |
| 16 Dagenham & Red | 36 | 11 | 9 | 16 | 46 | 49 | -3 | 42 | L D L L W |
| 17 Rochdale | 35 | 11 | 9 | 15 | 49 | 57 | -8 | 42 | L L D W L |
| 18 York City | 36 | 8 | 16 | 12 | 39 | 51 | -12 | 40 | L D D L D |
| 19 Aldershot Town | 36 | 9 | 12 | 15 | 33 | 46 | -13 | 39 | D D W W D |
| 20 Torquay United | 35 | 9 | 11 | 15 | 38 | 44 | -6 | 38 | D L L L L |
| 21 Barnet | 35 | 9 | 10 | 16 | 35 | 47 | -12 | 37 | L W D W D |
| 22 Accrington Stanley | 35 | 9 | 10 | 16 | 36 | 53 | -17 | 37 | D W D L D |
| 23 Plymouth Argyle | 35 | 8 | 12 | 15 | 36 | 46 | -10 | 36 | W D L L W |
| 24 AFC Wimbledon | 35 | 9 | 9 | 17 | 39 | 61 | -22 | 36 | L D W D W |

## Greece Super League

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | GD | Pts | Last5games Most recent first |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 Olympiakos Piraeus | 24 | 20 | 3 | 1 | 53 | 14 | +39 | 63 | W W W W L |
| 2 Asteras Tripolis | 24 | 14 | 5 | 5 | 34 | 16 | +18 | 47 | W W W L D |
| 3 PAOK | 24 | 13 | 7 | 4 | 37 | 18 | +19 | 46 | W W D W D |
| 4 Atromitos | 24 | 10 | 11 | 3 | 23 | 16 | +7 | 41 | W D D D W |
| 5 Panathinaikos | 24 | 8 | 10 | 6 | 27 | 24 | +3 | 32 | W W L L D |
| 6 PAS Giannina | 24 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 21 | 20 | +1 | 32 | L D D W D |
| 7 Xanthi | 24 | 8 | 7 | 9 | 22 | 22 | +0 | 31 | W L L W W |
| 8 Levadiakos | 24 | 8 | 5 | 11 | 18 | 26 | -8 | 29 | L L D L D |
| 9 Panionios | 24 | 9 | 1 | 14 | 27 | 34 | -7 | 28 | L W L L L |
| 10 Platanias | 24 | 7 | 6 | 11 | 23 | 30 | -7 | 27 | L W W W L |
| 11 OFI | 24 | 7 | 5 | 12 | 26 | 37 | -11 | 26 | L L L L W |
| 12 AEK Athens | 24 | 7 | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 | -7 | 26 | L L D W W |
| 13 Veria | 24 | 6 | 8 | 10 | 20 | 28 | -8 | 26 | W W L D W |
| 14 Panthrakikos | 24 | 7 | 5 | 12 | 22 | 28 | -6 | 26 | L L D W L |
| 15 Aris | 24 | 4 | 10 | 10 | 22 | 37 | -15 | 22 | L L W L D |
| 16 Kerkyra | 24 | 4 | 8 | 12 | 14 | 32 | -18 | 20 | W L W L L |

## France Ligue 1

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | GD | Pts | Last5games Most recent first |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 PSG | 27 | 16 | 6 | 5 | 49 | 17 | +32 | 54 | L W L W W |
| 2 Olympique Lyonnais | 27 | 15 | 7 | 5 | 47 | 26 | +21 | 52 | D W W L L |
| 3 Olympique Mars… | 27 | 15 | 4 | 8 | 34 | 32 | +2 | 49 | W L W D L |
| 4 Saint-Étienne | 27 | 13 | 8 | 6 | 44 | 19 | +25 | 47 | W W D W W |
| 5 Nice | 27 | 12 | 9 | 6 | 39 | 32 | +7 | 45 | L W W D W |
| 6 Montpellier | 27 | 13 | 5 | 9 | 43 | 32 | +11 | 44 | W W W L W |
| 7 Lille | 27 | 11 | 10 | 6 | 37 | 27 | +10 | 43 | W W W W D |
| 8 Rennes | 27 | 12 | 5 | 10 | 39 | 36 | +3 | 41 | L D L W D |
| 9 Lorient | 27 | 10 | 10 | 7 | 43 | 43 | +0 | 40 | D L W D D |
| 10 Bordeaux | 27 | 9 | 11 | 7 | 27 | 24 | +3 | 38 | L L L L W |
| 11 Valenciennes | 27 | 9 | 8 | 10 | 35 | 37 | -2 | 35 | D D L W L |
| 12 Toulouse | 27 | 8 | 10 | 9 | 32 | 32 | +0 | 34 | D D D L L |
| 13 Bastia | 27 | 8 | 6 | 13 | 30 | 51 | -21 | 30 | W D L L D |
| 14 Ajaccio | 27 | 7 | 10 | 10 | 29 | 37 | -8 | 29 | L L D W W |
| 15 Brest | 27 | 8 | 5 | 14 | 28 | 37 | -9 | 29 | D W D L L |
| 16 Reims | 27 | 6 | 9 | 12 | 23 | 31 | -8 | 27 | W L D W L |
| 17 Sochaux | 27 | 7 | 6 | 14 | 28 | 40 | -12 | 27 | L D W D L |
| 18 Evian TG | 27 | 5 | 9 | 13 | 25 | 39 | -14 | 24 | D L L D D |
| 19 Nancy | 27 | 4 | 9 | 14 | 24 | 45 | -21 | 21 | W L L L W |
| 20 Troyes | 27 | 3 | 11 | 13 | 29 | 48 | -19 | 20 | L D D D D |

## Portugal Premeira Liga

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | GD | Pts | Last5games Most recent first |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 Benfica | 21 | 17 | 4 | 0 | 51 | 14 | +37 | 55 | W W W D W |
| 2 Porto | 21 | 16 | 5 | 0 | 49 | 10 | +39 | 53 | D W W D W |
| 3 Paços de Ferreira | 21 | 10 | 8 | 3 | 29 | 18 | +11 | 38 | W L D W W |
| 4 Sporting Braga | 21 | 11 | 4 | 6 | 45 | 30 | +15 | 37 | W W D L D |
| 5 Rio Ave | 21 | 8 | 5 | 8 | 25 | 28 | -3 | 29 | L L D W W |
| 6 Marítimo | 21 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 23 | 31 | -8 | 29 | D W W W L |
| 7 Estoril | 21 | 8 | 4 | 9 | 32 | 29 | +3 | 28 | W W L W L |
| 8 Vitória Guimarães | 21 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 23 | 32 | -9 | 27 | W L W L L |
| 9 Nacional | 21 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 31 | 35 | -4 | 26 | W W D D L |
| 10 Sporting CP | 21 | 5 | 8 | 8 | 20 | 25 | -5 | 23 | D L W L L |
| 11 Vitória Setúbal | 21 | 6 | 5 | 10 | 22 | 38 | -16 | 23 | L W W W L |
| 12 Académica | 21 | 4 | 8 | 9 | 27 | 33 | -6 | 20 | L L L L D |
| 13 Gil Vicente | 21 | 4 | 7 | 10 | 21 | 33 | -12 | 19 | L D L L W |
| 14 Olhanense | 21 | 3 | 8 | 10 | 21 | 32 | -11 | 17 | L L L D D |
| 15 Moreirense | 21 | 3 | 7 | 11 | 20 | 35 | -15 | 16 | D D L W W |
| 16 Beira-Mar | 21 | 3 | 6 | 12 | 23 | 39 | -16 | 15 | L L L L D |

## One Game At A Time

### France
Rennes v Saint-Étienne
PSG v Nancy
Ajaccio v Lorient
Troyes v Reims
Evian TG v Sochaux
Brest v Toulouse
Valenciennes v Lille
Nice v Montpellier
Bordeaux v Bastia
Olympique Lyonnais v Olympique Mars…

### Germany
Augsburg v Nürnberg
Bayern München v Fortuna Düsseldorf
Schalke 04 v Borussia Dortmund
Freiburg v Wolfsburg
Mainz 05 v Bayer Leverkusen
Greuther Fürth v Hoffenheim
Borussia M'gla… v Werder Bremen
Hannover 96 v Eintracht Fran…
Stuttgart v Hamburger SV

### Croatia
Lokomotiva v Zadar
Split v Zagreb
Rijeka v Inter Zaprešic
Slaven Koprivnica v Cibalia
Hajduk Split v Istra 1961
Dinamo Zagreb v Osijek

### Serbia
BSK Borča v Partizan
Hajduk Kula v OFK Beograd
Jagodina v Partizan
Donji Srem v Sloboda Užice
BSK Borča v Vojvodina
Spartak Subotica v Javor Ivanjica
Smederevo v Rad Beograd
Crvena Zvezda v Novi Pazar
Radnički 1923 v Radnički Niš

### English Championship
Bristol City v Middlesbrough
Crystal Palace v Leeds United
Peterborough U… v Ipswich Town
Birmingham City v Derby County
Bolton Wanderers v Brighton & Hov…
Huddersfield Town v Charlton Athletic
Watford v Blackpool
Nottingham Forest v Wolverhampton …
Leicester City v Sheffield Wedn…
Burnley v Hull City
Cardiff City v Leicester City
Barnsley v Brighton & Hov…
Leeds United v Peterborough U…

### English League One
Notts County v Leyton Orient
Sheffield United v Milton Keynes Dons
Shrewsbury Town v Leyton Orient
Swindon Town v Walsall
Crawley Town v Notts County
AFC Bournemouth v Doncaster Rovers
Tranmere Rovers v Oldham Athletic
Carlisle United v Brentford
Colchester United v Crewe Alexandra
Preston North End v Stevenage
Hartlepool United v Yeovil Town

### English League Two
Bristol Rovers v Exeter City
Port Vale v Southend United
Fleetwood Town v Exeter City
Northampton Town v Accrington Stanley
Barnet v Morecambe
Rotherham United v Dagenham & Red…
Bradford City v Aldershot Town
Torquay United v Oxford United
Chesterfield v Bristol Rovers
Burton Albion v Cheltenham Town
Rochdale v Wycombe Wanderers
Gillingham v Plymouth Argyle
AFC Wimbledon v York City

### Scotland
Heart of Midlo… v Inverness CT
Kilmarnock v Aberdeen
Ross County v Motherwell
St. Johnstone v St. Mirren
Celtic v Dundee
Dundee United v Hibernian

### Greece
Levadiakos v OFI
PAS Giannina v Aris
AEK Athens v Veria
Atromitos v Asteras Tripolis
Kerkyra v Olympiakos Piraeus
Platanias v Panionios
PAOK v Panathinaikos
Panthrakikos v Xanthi

### Turkey
Galatasaray v Gençlerbirliği
İstanbul BB v Kayserispor
Gaziantepspor v Akhisar Beledi…
Trabzonspor v Beşiktaş
Karabükspor v Eskişehirspor
Sivasspor v Antalyaspor
Elazığspor v Orduspor
Fenerbahçe v Bursaspor
Mersin İdmanyurdu v Kasımpaşa

### Holland
Groningen v NAC Breda
Heerenveen v PSV
Heracles v NEC
Willem II v VVV
AZ v ADO Den Haag
Roda JC v Feyenoord
Utrecht v RKC Waalwijk
Ajax v PEC Zwolle
Twente v Vitesse

### Portugal
Porto v Estoril
Sporting Braga v Marítimo
Académica v Sporting CP
Nacional v Rio Ave
Moreirense v Olhanense
Paços de Ferreira v Beira-Mar
Benfica v Gil Vicente
Vitória Setúbal v Vitória Guimarães

## ...Results...Results....Results.....Results....Results....Results...Results...Results...Results...Results...Results...

### THE CHAMPIONSHIP
Huddersfield Town 2 - 1 Middlesbrough
Millwall 0 - 2 Wolverhampton …
Birmingham City 1 - 1 Blackpool
Peterborough U… 2 - 2 Charlton Athletic
Bristol City 0 - 0 Brighton & Hov…
Watford 2 - 1 Sheffield Wedn…
Burnley 1 - 1 Barnsley
Nottingham Forest 1 - 0 Ipswich Town
Cardiff City 1 - 1 Derby County
Leicester City 1 - 1 Leeds United
Crystal Palace 4 - 2 Hull City
Bolton Wanderers 1 - 0 Blackburn Rovers

### ENGLISH LEAGUE ONE
Brentford 1 - 0 Scunthorpe United
Walsall 3 - 1 Shrewsbury Town
Doncaster Rovers 3 - 0 Hartlepool United
Notts County 1 - 0 Carlisle United
Leyton Orient 3 - 1 AFC Bournemouth
Coventry City 1 - 2 Swindon Town
Oldham Athletic 0 - 2 Sheffield United
Milton Keynes Dons 1 - 1 Preston NE
Crewe Alexandra 1 - 2 Portsmouth
Stevenage 0 - 2 Colchester United
Bury 0 - 2 Crawley Town
Yeovil Town 1 - 0 Tranmere Rovers
**MidWeek**
Crawley Town 1-1 Carlisle United
Hartlepool United 0-0 Colchester United
Milton Keynes Dons 3-0 Doncaster Rovers
Stevenage 1-0 Brentford

### ENGLISH LEAGUE TWO
Southend United 1 - 1 Rotherham United
Exeter City 3 - 0 Northampton Town
Accrington Stanley 0 - 0 Torquay United
Bristol Rovers 3 - 0 Burton Albion
Plymouth Argyle 2 - 1 Barnet
Morecambe 3 - 0 Rochdale
York City 0 - 2 Bradford City
Wycombe Wanderers 1 - 0 Fleetwood Town
Dagenham & Red… 0 - 1 Chesterfield
Cheltenham Town 2 - 1 AFC Wimbledon
Aldershot Town 1 - 1 Gillingham
Oxford United 2 - 1 Port Vale
**MidWeek**
Oxford United 0-4 Rotherham United
Port Vale 0-0 Bradford City
Cheltenham Town 1-0 Chesterfield

### CROATIA
Inter Zaprešic 1 - 2 Zagreb
Split 0 - 0 Osijek
Zadar 1 - 0 Lokomotiva
Cibalia 0 - 2 Hajduk Split
Dinamo Zagreb 3 - 0 Slaven Koprivnica
Istra 1961 1 - 1 Rijeka

### FRANCE
Montpellier 2 - 0 Rennes
Reims 1 - 0 PSG
Saint-Étienne 4 - 0 Nice
Lorient 1 - 1 Valenciennes
Sochaux 1 - 2 Nancy
Bastia 1 - 0 Ajaccio
Toulouse 0 - 0 Evian TG
Brest 1 - 1 Olympique Lyonnais
Olympique Mars… 2 - 1 Troyes
Lille 2 - 1 Bordeaux

### GERMANY
Eintracht Fran… 0 - 1 Borussia M'gla…
Borussia Dortmund 3 - 1 Hannover 96
Wolfsburg 1 - 4 Schalke 04
Werder Bremen 0 - 1 Augsburg
Nürnberg 1 - 1 Freiburg
Hamburger SV 1 - 1 Greuther Fürth
Bayer Leverkusen 2 - 1 Stuttgart
Hoffenheim 0 - 1 Bayern München
Fortuna Düsseldorf 1 - 1 Mainz 05

### GREECE
Olympiakos Piraeus 2 - 1 Aris
Kerkyra 2 - 1 Platanias
Panthrakikos 0 - 1 Atromitos
OFI 0 - 4 Olympiakos Piraeus
Levadiakos 1 - 4 Xanthi
PAOK 4 - 2 Panionios
PAS Giannina 1 - 2 Asteras Tripolis
AEK Athens 0 - 2 Panathinaikos
Veria 3 - 1 Aris

### HOLLAND
Vitesse 2 - 0 Utrecht
NAC Breda 1 - 2 Heerenveen
PEC Zwolle 2 - 0 Willem II
PSV 2 - 0 VVV
Twente 0 - 2 Ajax
NEC 0 - 3 Feyenoord
RKC Waalwijk 2 - 1 AZ
Roda JC 4 - 1 Groningen
ADO Den Haag 3 - 1 Heracles

### TURKEY
Gençlerbirliği 0 - 0 İstanbul BB
Orduspor 3 - 2 Karabükspor
Eskişehirspor 0 - 0 Galatasaray
Akhisar Beledi… 0 - 1 Elazığspor
Kayserispor 2 - 1 Mersin İdmanyurdu
Antalyaspor 5 - 2 Gaziantepspor
Bursaspor 1 - 0 Sivasspor
Beşiktaş 3 - 2 Fenerbahçe
Kasımpaşa 2 - 0 Trabzonspor

### PORTUGAL
Académica 2 - 3 Marítimo
Paços de Ferreira 2 - 0 Vitória Setúbal
Sporting CP 0 - 0 Porto
Gil Vicente 1 - 2 Nacional
Rio Ave 0 - 2 Estoril
Marítimo 1 - 1 Moreirense
Beira-Mar 0 - 1 Benfica
Vitória Guimarães 2 - 0 Académica
Olhanense 0 - 1 Sporting Braga

### SCOTLAND
Motherwell 2 - 1 Celtic
Hibernian 2 - 2 Kilmarnock
St. Mirren 2 - 0 Heart of Midlo…
Dundee 2 - 2 St. Johnstone
Inverness CT 0 - 0 Dundee United
Ross County 0 - 0 Inverness CT
Heart of Midlo… 1 - 2 Motherwell
Heart of Midlo… 2-0 St. Johnstone
Dundee 2-1 St. Mirren

### SERBIA
Radnički Niš 1 - 0 Hajduk Kula
Novi Pazar 1 - 0 Radnički 1923 …
Javor Ivanjica 4 - 0 Smederevo
Vojvodina 2 - 1 Spartak Subotica
Sloboda Užice 1 - 0 BSK Borča
OFK Beograd 1 - 3 Jagodina
Partizan 2 - 0 Donji Srem
Rad Beograd 1 - 1 Crvena Zvezda

5 FULL DAYS - INCLUDES 2 X 1.5 HOUR SESSIONS
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